

# Luton on sunday



November 20, 2016  
Issue number: 1,128  
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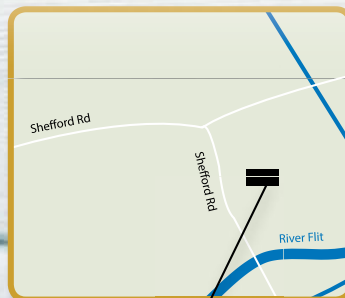


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Sky-high loss  
for airline

PAGE 17



Court throws out  
baby death appeal

PAGE 5

# Luton on sunday

Feeling  
festive  
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## Winning smiles

ALL our  
finalists and  
ALL the  
pictures  
Bedfordshire  
Business Awards  
special, turn to  
pages 36 - 51

THESE are the happy faces of two of the first ever winners of a Bedfordshire Business Award.

Launched in partnership with our sister title *Bedfordshire on Sunday*, the awards celebrated the fantastic achievements of businesses across our county.

Alex Lawrence and Gavin O'Brien (l-r) are the founding partners of content creation agency Clearhead, based in The Hat Factory in Bute Street.

Being an exciting, vibrant and most fun place to work 'is what it is all about' for this film making company, who took home the Best Place to Work Award.

For a full list of winners and pictures from the night, turn to pages 26 - 41.



## Family takes centre stage for big appeal

A SEVEN-year-old big brother shared his heartbreaking battle to come to terms with his sister's life-limiting illness with the world on Friday as he became a star of Children In Need.

Sophie Mathias, aged five, has been receiving support from Luton's Keech Hospice Care charity since 2012 after she was born with Down's Syndrome, further complicated by chronic lung disease and severe epilepsy.

But it was her brother Harry who found himself in desperate need of help from the charity.

The super siblings, who live with mum and dad Kelly and David and four-year-old brother Alfie in Station Road, Marston Moretaine, (pictured) became celebrities on Friday as they told the nation how amazing the staff at Keech had been to their family.

Harry was able to get back to 'being a kid' again after the charity gave him pre-bereavement counselling to cope with the stress of his sister's condition.

His mum Kelly, 35, said: "A couple of children who Harry was close to at Keech Hospice Care died within a few months of each other and Harry suddenly started becoming very worried about Sophie."

"It's like something clicked and he realised how fragile Sophie is."

■ Turn to page 16 for the full story



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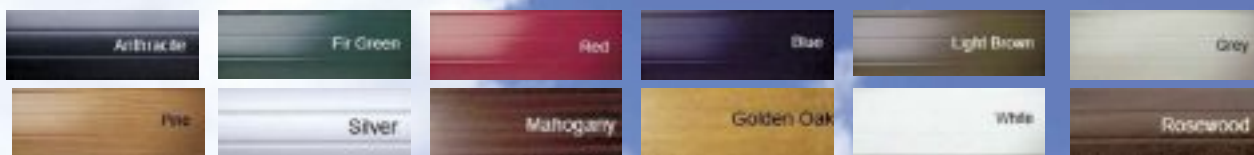
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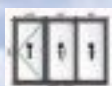
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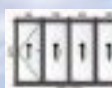


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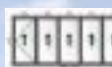
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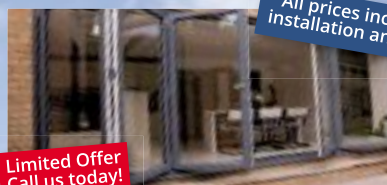
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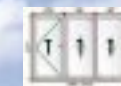
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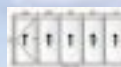
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## image of the week



**EYES TO THE SKIES:** As part of their 50th anniversary celebrations, 350 students at Wenlock Junior School released a balloon into the sky, following speeches by the headteacher and mayor of Luton, Cllr Tahir Khan.

## Editor's Letter



### Taking time out to say 'well done'

If you are looking for a success story or two to perk up your Sunday, you could do a lot worse than turning to pages 26-43 of this newspaper.

This week, we showcase page after page of brilliant Bedfordshire businesses – all of whom gained recognition at our first ever business awards.

All of whom deserve our utmost respect. As hundreds of guests streamed into Bedford Corn Exchange on Thursday night, my nerves were good and jangly.

Was it all worth it? More than we could ever have imagined when we launched the awards back in June.

Taking time out of the grind to say 'well done' is something we rarely do. Not just in business, but in life.

There just isn't the time. Or, at least, that's what we think.

In reality, time is the only thing we can be sure we do have. Everything else could end tomorrow.

Business is not some dry and remote concept: it is about the people and places that populate our world.

Sarah Cox

# No-show councillor branded shameless for not resigning

BY NICK SMITH  
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

**A COUNCILLOR convicted of falsifying business documents has been called on to resign after not attending any meetings in almost six months.**

Independent Cllr Mohammed Ashraf has been branded a 'disgrace' after only attending one meeting of Luton Borough Council since May 17 – a South Luton Local Area Board panel on November 10.

Liberal Democrat leader, Cllr



**UNDER FIRE:** Cllr Mohammed Ashraf

David Franks, has now called for him to step down, saying 'he clearly has no shame'.

In June, Cllr Ashraf was fined £2,100 after being found guilty of five breaches of Civil Aviation Authority and unfair trading regulations at Luton Magistrate's Court, resulting in his suspension from the Labour Party.

He had fabricated a document making it look as though his Luton Travel Service business in Dunstable Road was covered by an Air Travel Organiser's Licence (ATOL) when it was not.

Cllr Franks added: "I think he should resign. First of all, his behaviour is a disgrace and sec-

ondly he is not representing his constituents.

"After his conviction for fraud his constituents were entitled to expect that he would resign and give them an opportunity to elect someone else to represent them on the council.

"Since his court case he will have received more than enough in council allowances to pay his fine and he clearly has no shame at all."

Luton on Sunday contacted Mr Ashraf for a comment, but he did not respond.

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## Judge rejects appeal

A MOTHER and grandmother who were jailed for allowing the death of a seven-month-old baby failed in an appeal to clear their names this week.

Angela Price, 63, and her daughter Jessica, 25, from Luton, were convicted in October last year of allowing the death of Jessica's son, Imran.

The little boy died after he was deprived of food and liquid, amid a background of neglect at their home in Morris Close.

On Wednesday, they were back before the bench as their lawyers launched challenges to their convictions at the Court of Appeal.

However, they were condemned to serve their eight-year sentences after top judges, led by Lord Justice Treacy, rejected their appeal cases.

The family's barrister Andrew Jeffries QC said other factors in Imran's death could not be ruled out.

But having heard the arguments, Lord Justice Treacy, sitting with Mr Justice Singh and Judge Alistair McCreath QC, rejected the appeal.

The court heard the pair were only challenging their convictions for causing or allowing the death of Imran.

They did not challenge convictions for failing to get medical help for the boy.

# Cops 'top 10' hit list for bad bikers



**DISTURBANCE:** A nuisance biker previously captured on camera in Luton, as Bedfordshire Police announced it has a top 10 list of bikers it is trying to track down to put a stop to the problem

BY NICK SMITH

nicksmith@lutononsunday.co.uk

POLICE have revealed they are targeting a secret 'top 10' list of bikers in a fresh crack down on nuisance riding.

Since the relaunch of Operation Meteor in January 2016, Bedfordshire Police has made 12 arrests and seized 48 bikes across the county.

Now the force is looking at individual riders, who it isn't naming, to catch those misusing off-road bikes.

Inspector Russell Goldsmith, who leads the operation, told LoS: "We have done some analytical work and got information

from residents and CCTV to try and identify these people.

"We target hotspot areas, but we will also target these top 10 individuals."

In July three nuisance riders, who were part of a 60-strong group that led police on a chase through the county in 2015, were handed community orders at Luton Crown Court.

The court heard they ran red lights, mounted pavements and performed illegal wheelie stunts as police cars and a helicopter tracked them.

The force led a 'day of action' on November 4, with increased patrols looking for nuisance riders. It saw one

arrest - a 17-year-old on suspicion of possession of class A drugs with intent to supply.

Mayor of Dunstable Peter Hollick attended a crushing of seized bikes in Ampthill this month.

He said: "It's still an ongoing problem but this allowed us to see the effectiveness of the scheme."

"It gives me hope that the message is getting out there that people riding these bikes will be caught and their bikes will be crushed."

To submit information about off-road bikers, email opmeteorin@bedfordshire.pnn.police.uk. It is not monitored 24/7, so report crimes to 101 and in case of an emergency, call 999.

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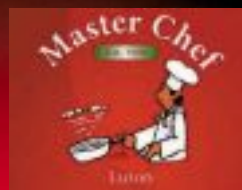
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# Would you bet your child's future health on a diagnosis of "growing pains"?

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Pain is one of your body's ways of self assessing it's state of health, and if it's there it is trying to tell you something important.

Sometimes when a child suffers from unexplained symptoms it's dismissively diagnosed as "growing pains" and this is usually when insufficient clinical testing has been conducted and the person giving the diagnosis is scrabbling desperately for an "explanation".

**Unfortunately parents are often unaware that unless pain in children and teens is treated, the problems may continue into adulthood and get worse as time progresses.**

Delaying thorough clinical testing and the correct treatment should not be an option.

The long-term health effects can be extremely debilitating, not only leading to stress, depression, and

fatigue, but to a range of serious chronic diseases too.

The problem is that most conventional medicine only treats the symptoms, often not looking for the cause, rather the aim is to alleviate the pain – so the reason for the pain being there in the first place continues into adult life, and may create a 'cycle of pain'.

**But that can all change for your child...**

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This procedure does not require a hospital stay for your child and in most cases they'll be able to continue with their normal daily activities with little interruption. The focus is on finding - and correcting - the original cause of the problem causing the pain.

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Mother Manisha K. from Milton Keynes wrote, "My son was in significant pain and he was unable to find any comfortable position or relief, except with medication. But after a week I was concerned by all the pain killers he was taking. He's only 12!"

"He'd been diagnosed with growing pains but as a parent you don't want your child to suffer pain, not even for a minute, so I was ready to try anything."

"Luckily your scans showed up where the pain was coming from and Shan was quickly on the way to a natural recovery. I'm so grateful."

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## Custody suite revamp

A NEW custody suite at Luton police station has been opened following a £565,000 refurbishment.

The new layout and equipment of the suite, launched by Police and Crime Commissioner Kathryn Holloway (left) and Bedfordshire Chief Constable Jon Boucher (far right), set it at the 'cutting edge' of custody design in England and Wales.

The new facilities ensure the suite, with a custody desk, cells – and kitchen and shower-room facilities meet Home Office guidelines.

It also houses technology including an imaging system to detect hidden weapons and mobile phones, and this revamp comes as two men have died while in custody at Luton Police Station since November 2013.

PCC Kathryn Holloway said: "I visited Luton Custody immediately before the refit and it is now unrecognisable as the same place. It is not only a better workplace for our officers and detention staff, but offers the sort of modern washing and catering facilities which should be available to detainees in any civilised society."

# Man fatally shot by police named

BY NICK SMITH  
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

A 24-YEAR-OLD who was shot and killed by an officer from Bedfordshire Police in Luton has been named.

Police watchdog, the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), identified him as Josh Pitt from Leighton Buzzard on Monday.

Mr Pitt was fatally injured following police attendance at a property in Hibbert Street at around 2pm on Wednesday, November 9.

The IPCC say investigators are carrying out enquiries, including door-to-door and CCTV trawls. IPCC Commissioner Mary Cunneen said: "My thoughts and sympathies are with the family and friends of Josh and all of those affected by this fatal shooting."

"I ask anybody who may have seen or heard anything in the Hibbert Street area on Wednesday afternoon, which may be useful to our investigation, to contact us."



SCENE: Officers in Hibbert Street, Luton

Bedfordshire Police's Chief Constable Jon Boucher said: "First and foremost our thoughts are very much with the family of the man involved in this tragic incident."

"The IPCC has been informed, as is standard protocol when someone has died following police contact, and as such it would be inappropriate for us to comment any further at this stage."

Anybody who has any information about the incident, or events leading up to it, is asked to contact the IPCC or call 0800 096 9072.



Shane Putney with Mr Watson

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# The magic of Christmas returns to Luton on Saturday 26 November 2016

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outside the Town Hall from 5pm,

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COME AND SEE  
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# Fears Hatters' plans could impact centre

BY NICK SMITH

nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

**COUNCIL** planners have warned Luton Town Football Club's Newlands Park plans could see the town centre left behind as the mixed-use development draws 'trade, footfall and investment' away.

The club's plans hit a snag after being criticised by Luton Borough Council's planning team who have 'significant concerns' that it will become a second town centre and ruin the 'viability' and 'vitality' of the existing area.

The proposed development, near Junction 10a of the M1, would see 4,000 office spaces and a number of retail units built to support the development of the club's proposed new stadium at Power Court.

But the town's planners believe it would 'hinder investment' in the key regeneration area between the railway station and The Mall shopping centre – and hurt neighbouring towns too, according to documents published online on November 7. A spokesman for Luton



Follow us on Twitter  
@LutonOnSunday

**WARNING: Concerns have been raised about the impact that the Newlands Park development could have on Luton town centre**

Borough Council said: "Luton Borough Council wishes to emphasise that no decision has been made in relation to the LTFC planning applications.

"As is the case in any planning application the council does not hold a predetermined view on the outcome and the applications will be considered on their merits.

"The applications are being processed by council officers in the normal open and transparent manner and are

scrupulously assessed against the relevant legislation, national and local policy and all other material planning considerations.

"The planning team is working closely with 2020 Developments to address key areas, for example regarding the impact a retail development at J10 might have on the town centre."

Planning applications for both projects were submitted by the club to the council earlier this year.



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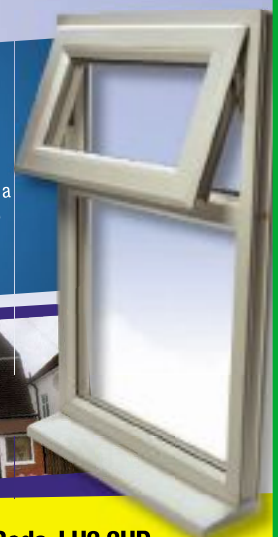
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# New team keeping town's streets safe

BY NICK SMITH

nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

A NEW team dedicated to improving the environment of the town is now patrolling the streets.

The Neighbourhood Enforcement Team (pictured), will be targeting residents and visitors who disrespect the local environment.

The officers have been given some police powers under the first Community Safety Accreditation Scheme in Bedfordshire.

The team will be equipped with body cams and will work closely with Bedfordshire Police and other agencies across the town to reduce crime and anti-social behaviour and to help keep people safe.



Councillor Rachel Hopkins, portfolio holder for community safety and enforcement said: "Our new team is part of the council's commitment to tackling the issues which

matter to our community. They will be empowered to tackle issues on the spot and will be a visible preventative and enforcement presence across the town."

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## Your chance to celebrate our unsung heroes

THERE is still time to make sure the true heroes who make Luton a brilliant place to live and work are recognised in the Luton's Best awards.

You can cast your vote for a number of categories, including Best Volunteer, Community Fundraiser of the Year, Environmental

Achievement and Child of Courage, until Thursday, December 1.

The winners will be announced at a glittering awards ceremony at Luton Hoo on December 2. The shortlist is available now on our website luton-dunstable.co.uk to choose your winner. Good luck to all of the finalists on the night!

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# Santa Run

On your marks, get set, ho ho ho!

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# YourVoice

**Luton**  
on sunday

## DOZYPARKERS

### Blocked off

THIS week's offender was sent in by an eagle-eyed reader who caught this Iceland delivery driver blocking pedestrians by parking on a pavement on Selbourne Road, Luton.

If you have spotted a dozy parker out and about in Luton, email the evidence to [editor@lsnmedia.co.uk](mailto:editor@lsnmedia.co.uk)



**Luton**  
on sunday

## READALLOVER



HERE we have Luton Town Centre Business of the Year award winner Mitul Kotak catching up with the latest goings on in the area, with a copy of *Luton on Sunday*.

Mr Kotak, who owns juice bar Vibe, was presented with the award on Thursday night at the first ever Bedfordshire Business Awards hosted by LoS, which celebrated all the achievements made by businesses across the county.

## BLOGGER OF THE WEEK: Pete Buckingham

### Electrical safety first!

This week Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service's Community Safety Team Manager, Peter Buckingham, is alerting people to the dangers of cheap electrical goods, and how to make sure you stay on the safe side, with Christmas just round the corner.



BEDFORDSHIRE Fire and Rescue Service is alerting people about the dangers of buying cheap electrical goods online in the run-up to Christmas this year.

The Fire Service wants people to be aware of the fire risks of using fake electrical goods and chargers.

According to Electrical Safety First the number of counterfeit and sub-standard electrical goods sold online has increased considerably in recent years, with the most common fakes being for popular and sought-after items.

The number of fake mobile phones seized has risen by more than 50 per cent, with other top electrical fakes including hair straighteners, e-cigarettes chargers and games.

However, these fake goods often contain faulty parts that can cause products to overheat and catch fire.

With products left charging overnight or on beds, and sometimes under pillows, a small spark can cause a major fire within minutes.

With Christmas coming everyone is looking for a bargain to make their money go further. But if a deal looks like it's too good to be true, then it could actually be dangerous and life-threatening to you and your family.

More people now shop online which increases the opportunities for rough traders to sell you fake products. Our advice is to stick to reputable retailers both on the High Street and online and have a look at Electrical Safety First's online Safe

Shopper's Guide for advice on shopping safely online.

Check the reviews: Use reputable online review sites to see what people who have bought products say about them and the retailer and use website checkers set up by companies to confirm you are buying from an approved stockist.

Check the seller: Look for the seller's contact details and ensure there is a full address, not just a PO Box number because just having a .co.uk address doesn't mean they are based in the UK. Is the seller a well-known name or have you bought from them before?

Check the price: If a bargain looks too good to be true, it probably is. Check what others are selling it for and ask the trader why their price is so low.

Check the purchase process: Look for websites that allow you to pay safely – these have a padlock symbol on your screen when you are filling in your payment details – but don't assume safe payment definitely means your purchase is genuine. Also ensure there is a return or complaints procedure should you be unsatisfied.

Check the product: When it arrives, firstly check for damage or loose wires, then check the voltage is 230V, 50Hz (the UK's usual domestic voltage) and that they are fitted with a three-pin UK plug or charger. Also, does it come with instructions and a guarantee? If you have any suspicions about a product's safety, or if you think it's a fake, do not use it.

# Your Luton Letters

on sunday

## Lost lambs

FIRST we had Brexit, and now Donald Trump has been voted in as American president.

Our politicians don't know which way to turn. They seem like little lost lambs.

The world is moving fast, and things are changing. They must try and keep up. They no longer have the luxury of Brussels telling them what to do.

It's time to separate the men from the boys. For too long they have been lead. Now they must learn to be leaders, and prove to the British people what they are made of.

John Tucker  
Bracklesham Gardens  
Luton

## Support our nurses

NURSES across the Eastern region are urging the Chancellor of the Exchequer to scrap the one per cent pay cap when he delivers his Autumn Statement on November 23.

The cap on pay increases for public sector workers has meant that some nurses have seen their pay fall by up to 14 per cent in real terms since 2010 – a massive impact. In our region some NHS trusts are facing a recruitment crisis which could mean they will soon lack the staff needed to provide safe patient care.

Nurses are telling us they struggle to cope on their current pay levels and feel undervalued which leads to low morale and staff leaving the profession for good.

Unless the Chancellor takes urgent steps to ensure nursing pay reflects



sign the petition on nursing pay.

Let's tell the Chancellor that this is his opportunity to show that the Government does indeed value nurses.

Thousands of nursing staff across the Eastern region are dedicated to caring for patients, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, whatever their illness or condition. Please show your support.

Teresa Budrey  
Acting Regional Director, RCN Eastern

## Need for stop signs

I discovered with shock that despite a petition to Luton Borough Council, as highlighted in LoS on 15th November 2015, and after a subsequent notification to residents at an Area Ward meeting that our recommendation for stop signs at the junction of Dumfries Street and Hastings Street would be implemented, that nothing has been done some 12 months later.

I have written on a number of occasions to the department within the Council for implementing the changes, and am unclear where the responsibility now lies.

Although the regulations for Local Authorities to change signs has been relaxed, and is well within the jurisdiction of Luton Borough Council to act upon, it has been placed on hold for 'consideration next financial year'.

If there are any accidents at this junction whilst the Council sit and ponder, shame on them for their lack of care and consideration to the residents of Luton.

John French  
By email

the complexity and value of the role, the nursing profession is being led into crisis.

Members of the Royal College of Nursing are calling for the Chancellor to scrap the one per cent public sector pay cap for NHS staff, award NHS staff with an above-inflation pay increase and return to UK-wide pay rate in the NHS.

If you would like to show your support for fair pay for nursing staff, visit [www.rcn.org.uk/nursingcounts](http://www.rcn.org.uk/nursingcounts) to find out what we are doing and to

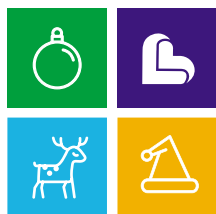
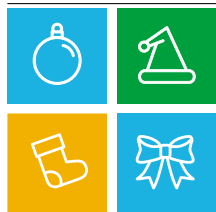
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# Christmas is getting closer

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**C**hristmas in Luton town centre is brought to you by Luton Business Improvement District (BID)...

## Extra excitement at LIGHTING UP LUTON

Luton BID is delighted to be organising **Chase & Marshall from PAW Patrol** to make personal appearances at the town centre's festive lights switch-on - Saturday 26th November.

The heroic pups are set to be based in a gazebo on George Street. They will be making their appearances at intervals between 2.30pm and 7pm, entertaining families in the lead-up to the official switch-on at 6pm.

There will be opportunities to take photos throughout the switch-on so don't forget your camera!



**Chase & Marshall from PAW Patrol**  
George Street, outside the Town Hall  
Saturday 26th November, 2.30pm and 7pm. Official switch-on at 6pm

## We are giving away £4,000 this Christmas

It will be an extra special Christmas for eight town centre shoppers as Luton Business Improvement District (BID) announces the return of its festive prize draw - the 'Golden Ticket'.

Eight lucky winners will win £500 each to spend in Luton Town Centre, with two prize draws taking place in Luton on 28th November and 12th December.

Enter by completing our Golden Ticket entry form on this page and hand posting it into one of the specially designed Golden Ticket post boxes which are dotted around Luton town centre in the Central Library, The Galaxy, the Travel Centre / Starbucks, in The Mall and The Hat Factory.

Winners will receive one £250 voucher for a national business and vouchers worth £250 to be spent with independent businesses in the town centre\* per winner.

The eight lucky winners will be contacted by phone.



Other BID funded highlights for Christmas in **St George's Square**

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on 24th & 31st Dec)

**17 - 24**  
DEC

CHRISTMAS  
CAROUSEL



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**£4,000 PRIZE DRAW**

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Date of Birth

Address

Postcode

Email

Telephone

☐ Tick here if you do not wish to receive further marketing or information on upcoming events from Luton BID

**TO ENTER**

Post this entry in one of our six Golden Ticket prize draw post boxes, located in the Central Library, The Galaxy, the Travel Centre / Starbucks, in The Mall and The Hat Factory. You must be aged 16 or over to enter. Each winner will receive £500 of vouchers for businesses of their choice\* and will be contacted by phone after each prize draw.

\*Terms and conditions apply. See [www.lutontowncentre.org](http://www.lutontowncentre.org)

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**THANKFUL:** The Mathias family has praised Keech for all the help they have given their two children, Sophie and Harry, after they appeared on Children In Need on Friday

## Harry can now 'focus on being a kid' due to support given by Keech Hospice Care

■ Continued from the front

"Harry was asking questions about death and dying and I was concerned about not answering them properly. Harry was bottling up his worries as he didn't want to upset us with them."

Natalie Watson, a bereavement support worker at Keech, funded by BBC Children in Need money for two years, helped Harry overcome his worries.

As well as talking, she helped him through the tough time with creative means, including creating a memory jar with reminders of his sister.

Harry said: "I was worried about Sophie and some other things but I'm not worried about them any more because Natalie's helped me get rid of them."

"I was worried about hearing bad things about Sophie and not understanding what was going on."

"I just wanted my family to be okay. I feel more relaxed and my memory jar helps me remember stuff in the past and keeps me happy because I like remembering fun memories and good times."

The help received has been invaluable for the children and the family as a whole.

Dad David explained: "The sessions with Natalie are all finished now but it's been made clear the door is always open at any time in the future. They've let Harry focus more on being a kid and not having to worry about his sister. Keech is more known for its palliative care but the other services they provide are brilliant. For both Sophie and Harry, the care they've provided has been brilliant."

Keech Hospice was also honoured at our Bedfordshire Business Awards this week - page 28.

### Don't let thieves spoil your Christmas!

Remember there are more burglaries about at this time of year than any other. To protect your Christmas gifts make sure that all your windows and doors are deadlocked.

Dear Customers Old and New,

This year our Sales have been the best for six or seven years. This is due to the fantastic support from our old and new customers.

We are in a very competitive market and I have never taken this support for granted. We are always working hard to give the service that you deserve.

May I thank you very much indeed and wish you and your families, A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

*Best Wishes*

from Barry and the Directors and staff at Barry Bolton Windows Ltd.

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## Acknowledgements

### KNAPPETT Rose

The family of the late Rose Knappett (Nee McGonigle), wish to thank all relatives, neighbours and friends for their kind thoughts and sympathy and help during this sad time. We also would like to express our gratitude to Moorland Gardens Care Home for their care, comfort and attention afforded to Rose during her stay with them, also the care the medical staff at the Luton and Dunstable Hospital and comfort afforded to us at this sad time.

May we also express our thanks to the Reverend Father Tony Brennan who conducted the service at Luton Crematorium.

Also, thanks to Neville Funeral Service for their excellent service with help and consideration afforded to us. Many thanks to all the staff at the 360 Venue, for the excellent catering and refreshment service provided.

Thanks also for the cards of sympathy, flowers and donations to the Dementia UK Society.

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**BRAZEN ATTACK:** This Honda bike was stolen by thugs in broad daylight

## Hunt is on for thieves who pulled man from his bike

POLICE are hunting for three people who pulled a man off his bike before stealing the vehicle in Luton. The man was riding his Honda bike in Caddington Park on Saturday, November 5 when he was approached by the three offenders at around 3pm. They pulled him off the bike and assaulted him on

Skimpton Road, before one made off on the bike. The other two left in a blue BMW. Bedfordshire Police is appealing for witnesses to the incident to come forward, as well as anyone who knows where the bike is now. Contact the force on 101 with information, quoting the reference number C/45782/2016.

# easyJet ‘confident’ despite profit drop

BY NICK SMITH  
nick.smith@lutononsunday.co.uk

**EASYJET remain confident of their future at Luton Airport despite a fall in profits from last year.** The total profits fell in the year to September 30 to £495m, down from £686m the previous year. Neil Slaven, the airline's commercial manager said: "For context, it's our third best performance in our 21 year history and was achieved despite challenging circumstances for the industry, in particular the terror attack on a plane leaving Sharm el-Shiek airport." Despite the loss, there was an increase of four million passengers, taking the total

number to 73 million, including close to six million flying from the company's main base in Luton. It was also announced that easyJet had applied for a charter based in an European Union country, based on the probability of Britain leaving the EU. Mr Slaven quickly pointed out that he believes this will have no affect on the airline's future at Luton. He said: "We are putting more aircraft at Luton and more investment in our presence at Luton. "We're looking to grow here and are will be adding new routes to Marseille, Nantes and Valencia. "It's not a big change, it's just something which is required to operate in the EU."

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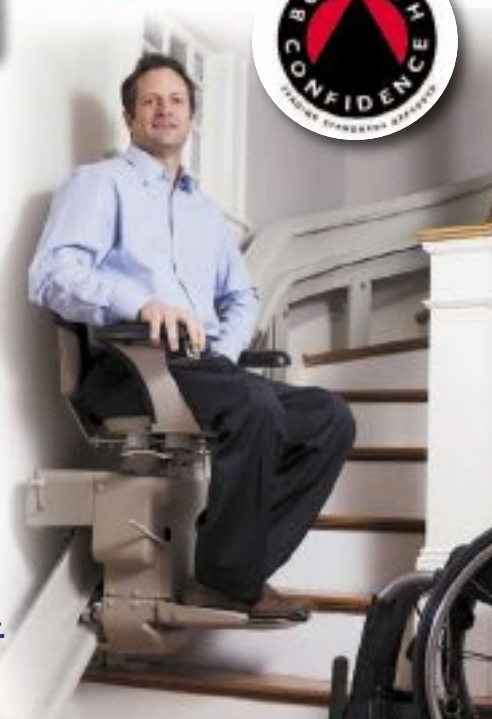
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# More jail time after 'hopeless' appeal bid

BY COURT REPORTER  
editor@lsmmedia.co.uk

A LUTON man jailed for his part in a knife attack in Cambridge will serve extra time in prison for wasting court time with a 'hopeless' bid to clear his name.

Zackaria Sherrief was one of a group of five men who travelled from Luton to Cambridge to assault the 31-year-old Saudi Arabian victim, Abujamel Ahmed, in June last year.

The ambush was planned by one of the other men, who believed the victim planned to kidnap his daughter and grandchild.

The victim suffered stab wounds and was in a life-threatening condition, but later recovered.

Sherrief, of Copenhagen Court, Luton, initially denied even being at the scene.

But after the victim's blood was found on his shoes, he said he was there but not involved in the assault.

The 60-year-old was jailed for nine years at Cambridge Crown Court in January, after being found guilty of wounding with intent. But he



**CASE CLOSED:** The scene of the attack in East Road, Cambridge

launched a bid to have his conviction overturned at the Court of Appeal, in London.

Despite being told by his lawyers that he had no chance of clearing his name, he wrote to the court, insisting he was innocent.

He claimed there was a 'lack of evidence' against him, but three senior judges have now kicked out his challenge.

And they took the rare step of handing Sherrief an extra 21 days behind bars for wasting their precious time.

His appeal was 'wholly unmeritorious', said Mr

Justice Lavender, sitting with Lord Justice McCombe and Mr Justice Wilkie.

"The jury had CCTV evidence and blood spatters on the appellant's shoes," Mr Justice Lavender added.

"There was evidence from others that he was involved in the actual attack and/or that he was shouting 'get him' about the victim. He had himself told lies in interview about not being present and saying he hadn't seen anything and his case at trial was that he was there, but not involved in the attack."

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We are bringing together the borough's top health and social care organisations to showcase exciting roles in some of the most dynamic service providers in the borough. If you're looking for a challenging and rewarding career in children's or adults' services come and find out more.

Luton Children's and Adults' Community Health Services – part of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust – are hosting the Job Fair on Thursday, November 24. We are joining forces with our partners, Luton Borough Council and Virgin Care, the East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust Luton Mental Health and Wellbeing Service run by East London NHS Foundation Trust Luton Mental Health and Wellbeing Service run by East London NHS Foundation Trust and the Luton and Dunstable Hospital to offer a wide range of jobs across the services at this event. These opportunities give you the chance to work with first-rate staff across the borough to deliver the best outcomes for patients.

Below are just some of the jobs for which we are recruiting.

CCS: health visitors, district nurses, community nurses, children's community nurses, health care assistants – we have bank posts for all the above and sexual health services in Bedfordshire.

Luton Borough Council: senior and specialist roles across adult social care and children's services.

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust: intermediate ambulance practitioners, associate ambulance practitioners and paramedics.

Anita Pisani, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust, Deputy Chief Executive said: "We know our staff make a real difference to the diverse communities we serve, so if you are ambitious and relish the opportunity to work in a high performing environment, then you're exactly the person we're looking for.

"With our health and social care partners, we value multi-disciplinary, integrated working and are developing new and ground-breaking solutions to providing holistic care as close to home as possible. We're second to none in ensuring our staff are valued, engaged and receive all the training and development they need to provide high quality care.

"So if you think you have what it takes to be part of our team – come and meet us at our Job Fair."



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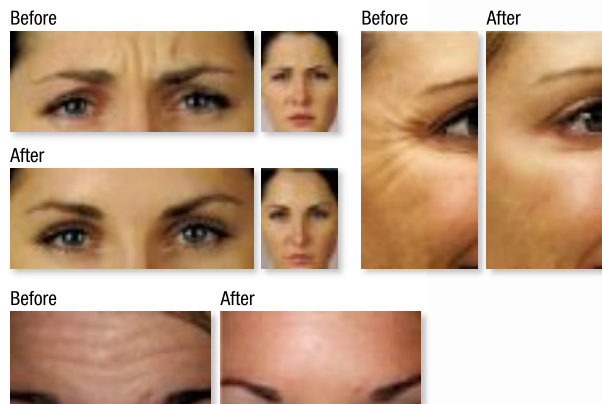
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# The protests that

BY JENNA HUTBER

[jenna.hutber@bedsonsonday.com](mailto:jenna.hutber@bedsonsonday.com)

IMAGES of tens of thousands of students clashing with police at Trafalgar Square in frustration over spiralling tuition fees have become iconic.

The controversies that make us stand up and protest are the ones which define generations. So what were the burning issues that shaped Bedfordshire's history?

When faced with conscription to the French Wars in 1757, the people of Biggleswade reacted so angrily the Duke of Bedford had to get involved.

An 'angry mob' of about 1,000 men came to The Sun pub to prevent the lots for militia men being drawn up.

Bedfordshire archivist Rachel Bates said: "When they were refused, Sir Roger Burgoine was followed to his house and forced to destroy the lists, give money to the men and empty his cellar of beer and give it to the mob who 'drank plentifully out of mugs, bowls and our hats'."

"In 1835, Liddington women and men rioted over one of the most basic of rights – the right to be paid for work. The new 1834 Poor Law had seen responsibilities for welfare passed down

**TROUBLE IN TOWN: World War One soldiers set fire to Luton Town Hall after being told a drumhead ceremony would not be held for them, picture courtesy of Bedfordshire Archive Service**



to parish level, where confusion and fear over being shut up in the workhouse became rife."

In 1834 there was a 'disturbance' in Marston when poor labourers were paid for a week's work in bread. About 80 farmers marched to meet the magistrate, who relented and ensured the workers were paid in cash. But the next year, tensions reignited

when the relieving officer for the Amptill Union visited Liddington in May and was met by angry residents demanding 'money or blood'.

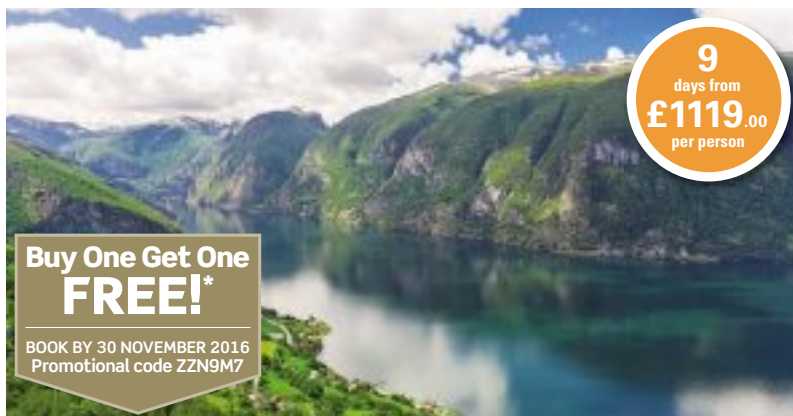
He managed to find some money to appease them, but the protesters reformed in their hundreds, using every conceivable object, including cabbage stalks, as missiles and Met Police officers had to be called to restore

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# righted wrongs



**LOOKING BACK:**  
Archivist Rachel Bates delivers a talk on the history of protests in Bedfordshire



order. A celebration of peace in 1919 in Luton revealed how servicemen, expecting a hero's welcome after the horrors of World War One, were made to feel excluded by their own mayor. Residents were already angry at the Food Control Committee, who were blamed for food shortages and a Peace Committee set up to celebrate the victory

did not involve any servicemen.

Discharged soldiers requested a drumhead service in Wardown Park in July, but were rejected. In response, they burned Luton Town Hall to the ground and looted the local shops. Rachel added: "Documents for the freehold of the land

the town hall was built on were also burnt – leading to dispute over ownership of the land."

Find out more about our rebellious history at a History of Bedfordshire Protest talk at Leighton Buzzard Library on November 22 at 10am, costing £2.

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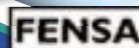
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## Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



# And the Business Awards go to...

ON Thursday night, a whole host of deserving winners from across the county took home accolades at BoS' first ever Bedfordshire Business Awards.

The ceremony at Bedford Corn Exchange celebrated the very best in business through 14 categories – from Best Employee to Best Family Business.

The evening, was packed full of good food, flowing drinks, laughter and chat.

There was also a raffle and auction in aid of Bedford Hospitals Charity, which raised more than £1500.

Turn the page to find out who took home our awards. . .

CELEBRATION: Representatives from all 14 category winners take to the stage



## Santa Run

On your marks, get set, ho ho ho!

Sunday 11 December 2016, Wardown Park, Luton  
Sunday 4 December 2016, The Embankment, Bedford

For more information and to sign up

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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



**Awards  
night in  
pictures**

at  
bedfordshire-  
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Proud to be named Bedfordshire Business Awards'  
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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Marketing Campaign of the Year: Keech Hospice

sponsored by Bedfordshire on Sunday

**MAKING** your organisation's message heard above the rest is a challenge in today's multimedia world.

But when you get it right, a marketing campaign can energise your audience and shine a spotlight on the service you have worked so hard to create.

In the Marketing Campaign of the Year category, judges were looking for an organisation which demonstrated outstanding communication with its target audience over the past year.

Applications were welcomed from companies or organisations in the private, public or voluntary sectors.

And what better cause to shout from the rooftops than Keech Hospice's work to help terminally ill patients and their families make the most of their time together.

Despite a limited budget, the marketing team at this children and adults' hospice in Great Bramingham Lane has achieved incredible things in 2016.

Its work with the inspirational Tony Jules, a man dying of cancer in Keech, helped raise £45,000 from the public through Tony's Angel Campaign.

And a film shot with local schoolchildren for Dying

**DEDICATION:** Keech Hospice collect their award from editor of *BoS*, Sarah Cox, and Trinity Mirror MD, Richard Duxbury



Matters awareness week received 45,000 plays on social media and coverage in the Daily Mail, The Mirror, The Metro and Radio 5 Live.

By no means is this the extent of its work and judges were bowled over by the scale of coverage and results its initiatives achieved. Keech Hospice regional

fund-raiser Rebecca Eastwick said: "We're thrilled to win the award. It is a hospice built by the community for the community. It's nice to get recognition from the local people."

"The campaign we ran for Tony Jules – it was an absolute inspiration."

Caron Hooper added: "He gave the world a window on what

hospice care is all about.

"People have a perception that it's really dark and it's going to be depressing and all about death but what it actually showed people is that there's so much living you can do in the time that you've got left."

"You've got this opportunity to grab it with both hands and do amazing things."

Keech Hospice is based in Luton but provides care in a variety of settings across Bedfordshire, Milton Keynes and Hertfordshire.

It receives 30 per cent of its revenue from statutory sources but relies upon public generosity for 70 per cent of its income.

The charity strives to fulfil patients' emotional needs through special activities and counselling services as well as in-patient care and community nursing teams. A warm congratulations to our extremely worthy winner.



## Shortlisted: Bedford Blues

**INNOVATIVE** social media and video campaigns were combined with traditional postal and newspaper marketing campaigns, to help the Blues significantly improve revenues from season ticket holders in 2015/16.

Their marketing plan focussed on converting our existing membership and previously elapsed Season Ticket holders, but also created a separate campaign for new members who had been to

over five games in the last season, proving very successful.

Judges commended the scope of the campaign and innovative approach of a club at the heart of the Bedford community in a difficult climate.

They were also impressed by the introduction of a new and appealing 'credit card' season ticket which has significantly improved the user experience and data collection.



## Shortlisted: iCandy

A **STYLISH** and groundbreaking marketing campaign using cutting edge cinematograph technology has helped this internationally-recognised luxury pushchair retailer achieve ambitious sales targets.

The Biggleswade-based firm saw its most successful paid-for Facebook advert of the year with a promotion shot on the Millennium Bridge in



London. Judges were impressed by the sheer quality and ambitiousness of the campaign.

iCandy's head of marketing, Tom Bateman, said: "iCandy is a really unique business in the fact that we are a British owned

family company and we can trace our routes back to 1933."

The firm has used Jordan's Mill for photo-shoots and marketing materials locally, making them a fantastic ambassador for the county.



More than 500 businesses are winning in Bedford thanks to the Business Improvement District (BID) which is encouraging people to Love Bedford all seasons of the year.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Digital Business of the Year: DBM Motion Graphics

sponsored by Bedford Borough Council

IT may have come as a surprise to him, but the hard work that Rob Birnie has put into DBM Motion Graphics made him a winner for 2016.

Rob took home the Digital Business of the Year Award, sponsored by Bedford Borough Council.

This award recognises a company that could demonstrate exceptional use of the internet and social media to increase its sales and profits.

'Getting stuff from brain to screen' is the motto of this Bedford-based graphics, animation and post-production company.

Having already worked with a number of the businesses present on awards night, DBM has demonstrated an innovative and imaginative approach to designing video, cartoons and visuals at affordable prices.

Judges felt this is a firm which can only go from strength to strength, and got a real sense of the fun and enthusiasm with which this team approach their work.

Speaking to *BoS* about his win, Rob said: "I'm really surprised to be honest and really pleased. I've not been doing this that long really, only about 18 months so it is all pretty new to me.

**ALL SMILES:** Rob Birnie, director of DBM Motion Graphics (centre), with Cllr Sara-Jayne Holland and Trinity Mirror regional managing director Richard Duxbury



"I saw the advert in the paper about the awards and just thought I would have a crack so I am over the moon that I was not just nominated, but that I won.

"This is a lot of exposure for a young business so I am chuffed and very grateful to *Bedfordshire on Sunday* for this award."

And though the business is relatively new, things have been going from strength to strength.

Rob said: "The first 18 months of business has been long days and long nights but a few months ago things started to hit that critical mass.

"Things started going my way

which was fantastic. What I do is a lot of social media work, video is quite big at the moment and people want things moving, they want new creative ways of showing what they do, cartoons and the like so it feels like the right place and the right time for DBM."

And one other eye-catching thing about this business was the nomination video he submitted featuring a cartoon version of himself, which really impressed the audience.

He said: "When I was called by *BoS* about doing a video I thought there is not a lot to see as I work from home in my spare room so I thought I could utilise what I do for clients and create a fun video.

"The audience will have noticed he is a bit younger and thinner than I am, so I was happy to pass the buck to him."



**What the judges said...**  
"The guys at DBM Motion Graphics clearly have fun at work. Watching their videos was a delight and we look forward to seeing many more exciting projects from them in the future"

- Donna Minnett, area manager for Barclays

## Shortlisted: James Kendall Estate Agents

THIS Kempston estate agent has an active social media presence and easy-to-use website which judges commended highly.

James, who started his estate agency five and a half years ago, said: "We're a boutique estate agency specialising in the sale of residential property utilising state-of-the-art technology to help sell homes.

"...what's important is the digital options that we

offer. So for example our 3D spaces digitally reconstruct properties so you can view them online on a smartphone, tablet, desktop, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

"...so many agents have just photos, a floorplan and a description, whereas we're able to offer an immersive experience where buyers can take a walk around their property."



## Shortlisted: Mianee Boutique

DEBBIE Moliterno is the proud owner of Mianee Boutique which specialises in designer children's clothing.

She said: "I started Mianee four years ago. I actually started on the top end of Foster Hill Road and when I was offered this shop I took it straight away and moved into it.

"It looks like we've outgrown it but we've just widened the business by

doing lots of e-business strategies where instead of waiting for a customer to come into the shop we will sell online, continuous, 24 hours a day."

She added: "The best thing about being in business in Bedfordshire is working in my home town."

The judges were particularly impressed by the creation of a Private VIP Group on Facebook.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Business Innovation Award: Acuigen

sponsored by Barnfield College

THERE'S nothing new under the sun or so the saying goes.

The businesses shortlisted in this category flipped that cliché on its head, proving that Bedfordshire has a flair for innovation.

In this category, sponsored by Barnfield College, judges were looking for a business that has introduced a new product, process, invention, idea, or design that has made a significant contribution to the business, its customers and/or the wider marketplace.

A pioneer in customer experience management, Cranfield market research company Acuigen provides client feedback solutions to law firms around the world.

Employing 22 local people, this company has developed unique software CustomServe which is used by firms from New York to the Netherlands, and from Germany back home to the UK. Acuigen gathers customer feedback in 19 languages from 40 countries across the world.

Judges were impressed with the truly global client base of this innovative firm, and dedicated work to nurture the next generation.

Managing director Derek Jones said: "About 15 years ago we



**PIONEERS:** Dawn Pierce, assistant principal of Barnfield, presents the award to team Acuigen, with Trinity Mirror MD Richard Duxbury

produced most of these services in the printed form and we would send reports by post or fax machine to our clients.

"When the internet came about we decided to e-enable everything and this has enabled us to start serving clients around the world.

"We have got a major project running out of Hong Kong,

several projects running out of New York and very significant projects running all across Europe - 40 countries and 18 languages.

"We are intending to grow the business.

"We have got representation in America now and we are hoping to establish an office over there in the not too distant future."

The firm says a positive point of being based in Bedfordshire is its close proximity to London and Milton Keynes where many of its clients are based.

Acuigen also has close links with the University of Cranfield, the University of Bedfordshire and Bedford College.

Speaking after Acuigen's win was announced, MD Derek said:

"We are delighted to have been recognised for our innovation, technology and services to clients around the world.

"We always strive to develop the best and most innovative customer feedback solutions for our clients, working closely with them to create success.

"We are very excited to have been honoured with this award, which we hope will help prove that Acuigen is a truly innovative supplier of client and customer feedback solutions."



## Shortlisted: LPH Concerts

MARK Harrison, director of LPH Concerts, said: "I run day-to-day the concerts around the UK and specifically the ones that take place in Bedford Park.

"Some 20 years plus ago we came up with the concept of Proms in the Park and we have been most fortuitous to work in the gorgeous Victorian park in Bedford, Bedford Park itself and produce these fantastic events."

He added: "This year we brought Sir Tom Jones to Bedford and Dizzee Rascal so during the weekend a whole gamut of different genres and it's our interest to carry that forward and bring other stars to Bedford that it so deserves along with another event that might take place in Bedford Park in the following year which is a fire and light display."



## Shortlisted: The Pad Presents

BRINGING the best bands from the past and new bands for the future to a music-loving region which is often overlooked by promoters is the aim of this Bedford event promotion outfit.

Over 12 months the Pad Presents trio of Sally, Kevin and Gareth estimate they have bought 50,000 people through the doors. Judges commended their enthusiasm and success securing such impressive acts.

Kev said: "The good thing about being in business in Bedford is there is a good opportunity to just go out and do what you want without too many obstacles.

"There's a good sense of community there and people are always willing to support you."

Looking to the future, the guys hope to expand their offering and bring even more fantastic music to Bedford.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Town Centre Business Bedford: Arcadia Sweets

in association with Bedford BID

IT is a very exciting time for Arcadia as this good old fashioned retailer continues to expand into the online market.

On Thursday night, the team also celebrated being named the best business in Bedford town centre.

This award, sponsored by Bedford BID, celebrates the businesses which – through thick and thin – have worked so hard to keep the identity of our town centres alive and make our shopping experiences that extra bit special.

Arcadia has been a focal point of our town for years and Jan Page, who runs the shop alongside her daughter Debbie, said: "We like to think we are a traditional sweet shop particularly because the shop is 111 years old and has been on the same site - The Arcade.

"We like to think we are sort of custodians of the shop because we get many generations come in - grandparents bringing in children who love to tell us what they used to buy."

And it is this dedication and that secured them this award. Our judges were extremely impressed by the business' growth in 2016 and innovative approach to capitalising on their USPs.

**SWEET SUCCESS:** (l-r) Director of Bedford BID, Christina Rowe; Jan Page and her daughter Debbie; with Trinity Mirror MD Richard Duxbury



Speaking of their win, Jan told *BoS*: "We are so thrilled to have won this award we can barely speak."

"There was a lot of tough competition in this category so we didn't really think we had a chance so when they announced our name it is an understatement to say we were very surprised."

There is no doubt, Arcadia has become an institution in our town, but Jan and Debbie have not let this make them complacent and have been working tirelessly to keep the momentum going by expanding online and into corporate markets.

Debbie said: "It is a very exciting time for us as a business, we are trying to get into the corpo-

rate market and are working with a lot of businesses in town.

"We are trying to widen out and get into a bigger market, as well as putting back into Bedford as we have just joined Bedford BID."

Jan added: "We are finding more and more businesses are coming to us who want to use us instead of the internet as they

want to shop locally, which is great for the town and for us."

And the pair were praised by their business manager Emerson Patton, who commended the ladies for their dedication to pushing their business further and further.

He said: "They have taken this from a shop to an online retailer which is a very big thing; it has changed their whole perspective."

"They are actively looking for different markets such as the wedding market, the business market, and are working hard to take this business as far as it can go."



## Shortlisted: Michael R Peters

PAUL Mead (pictured left) heads up Michael R Peters, Bedford's number one independent electrical retailer.

He said: "Michael R Peters has been established 50 years this year and we sell anything with a plug on basically."

"I think with everything in life you get out what you put in."

The retailer also helps in the community such as

funding a hospital car scheme - a cause which led to recognition in our Jayne Beard Heart of the Community category.

Judges praised impressive growth in 2016 and the breadth of achievement and dedication to the town centre as a whole.

Founded in 1966 by true Bedfordians Mike Peters and his wife, Mary, the shop has become something of a local landmark.



## Shortlisted: George James Bridal

ACTRESS and newlywed Nicola Harris (née Weeks) describes her multi award-winning shop as a 'beautiful, luxury, designer bridal boutique located in the heart of Bedford'.

She launched the shop after her family suffered a devastating loss when her ten-year-old nephew passed away.

He was the inspiration behind the boutique. Nicola said:

"When these awful things happen it very much puts things into perspective."

"I'm hugely passionate about being a town centre business. I love Bedford, I grew up here and I went to school here, and to have a business in the centre is absolutely wonderful."

A clear focus on excellent customer service and significant growth in a short space of time impressed the judges.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Town Centre Business Luton: Vibe Juice Bar

in association with Luton BID

HIGH Street businesses have faced tough competition from internet outlets, rates and economic uncertainty.

But it is the independent businesses which create a town's sense of identity.

And there is plenty to celebrate in Luton's vibrant town centre.

Independently owned and operated juice and smoothie bar, Vibe, is located in the heart of Luton's The Mall Shopping Centre.

With a strong track record in business and winners of The Mall's Independent Business of The Year at The Mall Awards for 2015 and 2016, judges were particularly impressed by the business' willingness to celebrate Luton life.

A special Carnival Crush drink created for Luton Carnival's 40th Anniversary, advocates of a 'Clean As You Go' policy, and excellent customer feedback from loyal customers make this a truly Lutonian business.

Owner Mitul said: "We serve fresh natural juices and smoothies to customers of The Mall in Luton."

"The business I believe is unique because we are pretty much the only healthy food or drinks outlet within The Mall - all of our products are natural,



**CHAMPIONS:** Mitul Kotak and wife Reshma, collect their award for Vibe Juice Bar in the Mall, Luton, from Gavin O'Brien (far left) and regional Trinity Mirror MD Richard Duxbury

we don't use any purees or flavourings or anything like that.

"Plans for the future are to grow the business here in Luton and maybe expand in other

towns in Bedfordshire and nationally.

"I believe the best thing about being in Bedfordshire is it's a very growing, vibrant community, especially here in Luton, it's a

very busy shopping centre.

"Bedfordshire has so many opportunities and there's a lot of support from the Chamber of Commerce and other business organisations all around and

also Luton BID which has provided a lot of advertising and marketing and also training sessions."

After winning the award he said: "We're absolutely thrilled, we're blown away."

"It has come as a real surprise. I'm not sure where we are going to put the award though as we haven't any wall space left in the bar."

"Perhaps we can put in the The Mall lift!"



## Shortlisted: Tokko Youth Space

MEET Andy Calvert, executive manager of Tokko and Hazel Mellon, business manager.

Hazel said: "Tokko is a dynamic and unique charity based right in the heart of Luton however we don't just do charitable things in order to ensure we can support the young people we work with."

"We have to work like a business, like any other business in the town

centre to generate an income and that income is then invested back into the charity, into the young people in the town centre, supporting some of the most vulnerable, your future managers and employers."

Judges said the range of support services offered by this youth-led charity and business is 'truly staggering' and praised the team's proactive approach.



## Shortlisted: Flame Nightclub

AS one of the only nightclubs left in Luton, judges commended Flame's achievements and success in the Luton Safe, Best Bar None and Luton's Business Improvement District programmes.

General manager Luke Howell said: "We are one of the only gay nightclubs in Luton and we are the largest LGBT venue within the town centre itself and one of the only nightclubs

left in the town centre. One of the best things about having a business in Bedfordshire is working with different organisations like Bedfordshire Police and the council."

"We are going into the busy period of Christmas and new year. Next year we are looking to do the refurbishment work upstairs which will make a much bigger bar area, new toilets and extended terrace."



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Jayne Beard Heart of the Community: Michael R Peters

sponsored by Bedfordshire Police

INDEPENDENT electrical retailer Michael R Peters is celebrating its 50th birthday later this month – and can now celebrate winning our special community award to boot.

This award recognises a business, individual or organisation that gives something back to Bedfordshire and always has others at the forefront of its work.

The category is named after Jayne Beard, a successful Bedford businesswoman and 'friend to the town', who sadly passed away in June.

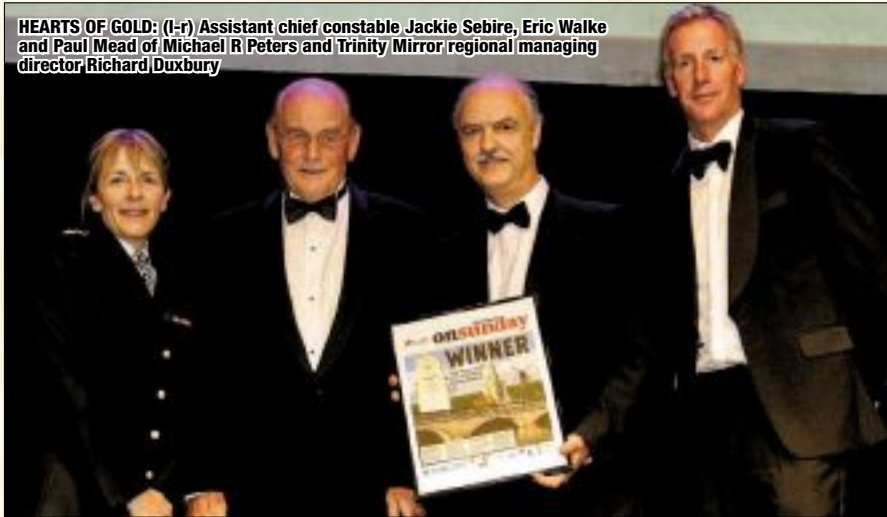
She supported many good causes, most notably she served as chairwoman of Bedford Hospitals Charity for almost 30 years.

Michael R Peters has been a stalwart of the business community since 1966.

Over the years, it has contributed to everything from the local bowling and football clubs to victims of the Kashmir earthquake of 2005.

For many years, the team has also funded a car scheme at the Primrose Unit at Bedford Hospital. It provides seven vehicles to transport cancer patients at Bedford Hospital to Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge.

HEARTS OF GOLD: (l-r) Assistant chief constable Jackie Sebire, Eric Walke and Paul Mead of Michael R Peters and Trinity Mirror regional managing director, Richard Duxbury



Paul Mead, who now heads up the business, believes it's important to get involved in initiatives such as Bedford BID and make a contribution to our community. Paul explained: "I think historically one of my favourite community events was when the snow started to fall. "One of our staff, Christine, a

lovely lady, phoned some of our elderly customers to see if they were okay for bread and milk. "One of our customers had not managed to get out for a couple of days and we ended up taking her a pint of milk round and she was absolutely delighted."

When the business scooped the award, Jayne Beard's son Russell

said his mother would be delighted with the selection, something Paul was very pleased to hear.

He said: "We are absolutely honoured to receive this award, because obviously Jayne was such a big person in Bedford and will be missed sorely.

"We are made up because it is

so special for us and we would like to think in our own little way we can follow in her footsteps in being at the heart of the community.

"We have an absolutely fantastic staff, long serving people so our customers can see the same people and they trust our staff, which speaks volumes for any independent business.

"It's not click and collect, it's not about the internet, we are a real business and we strive to be active in our community."



## Shortlisted: The Jigsaw Club

RUN completely by unpaid volunteers, this club's aim is to bring together people who might not otherwise get out to 'meet old friends and make new ones'.

Chairwoman Janet Sexton said: "Our 40 members have a variety of physical problems...and the inevitable frailty which can come with age. We try to make each evening special with a varied programme." Judges made a



special mention of the dedicated work of the team of volunteers. Janet added: "Our band of helpers make teas, run the raffle, organise evening entertain-

ments, supply refreshments, drive ambulances and escort. Mainly though we all talk to each other as equals have a good time being there".

## Shortlisted: The Counselling Foundation

THE Counselling Foundation provides counselling and part-time counsellor training for the mental health of our communities of Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire.

It aims to provide people on low incomes with access to affordable, long term counselling which isn't available

elsewhere in the two counties.

Judges said the 30,000 counselling sessions delivered every year were an incredible achievement and one which all who contribute their expertise and time to this charity should be immensely proud of.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Best Place to Work: Clearhead

THIS is an award any employer would be proud to take home.

You must be doing something right if you are not only able to run a successful business, but can do so in a fun and exciting environment.

For Best Place to Work category, the judges were looking for a company which has proved that its working environment not only treats employees with respect and equality, but is a genuinely exciting place to be.

Alex Lawrence and Gavin O'Brien are the founding partners of content creation agency Clearhead.

Being an exciting, vibrant and most importantly fun place to work 'is what it is all about' for this Luton town centre based film making company.

The chance to move between roles in the team, Friday beers, and 'lunch and learn meetings' are just some of the unique initiatives which makes Clearhead a unique environment.

Alex said: "We create films, animations and graphic designs all for different brands and clients we work for."

On being the top place to work for, Gavin said: "For us, staff is everything."

"The only reason we are here is



REFLECTION: Cheryl Smart MBE, chief executive of Bedford Chamber of Commerce with Gavin O'Brien and Alex Lawrence from Clearhead with Trinity Mirror MD Richard Duxbury

because of the guys who have worked for us over the years.

"For us it's hopefully a place people enjoy to work."

"I think we are very open and honest and give people lots of responsibility and also take people on when they want to build a skill they have got the passion

for, being creative, but maybe haven't got the outlet to do it."

Alex added: "We encourage a lot of independence as well which drives each of our guys to strive to improve and become better because they know they are in charge and can make

decisions and are not just cogs turning over our projects but they all play a part in their self-motivation as well."

"Bedfordshire is a really good location for us and we are very well located as a production able to go up and down the country or into Europe or across the

Atlantic." After winning the award Gavin told BoS: "It feels great."

"It's completely unexpected but it's a real reflection on the hard work of our team and everything that we strive for and our commitment to create a happy working environment. So it's great, it's great news."

"When myself and Alex started the company we wanted to make sure we set a place to work that actually we would be happy to work in ourselves."

### What our judges said...

"After reading this entry, I think we would all like a job at Clearhead! An amazing team with an amazing approach to working."

- Donna Minnett, Bedfordshire area business manager for Barclays

## Shortlisted: Bedford Heights

THIS iconic building – formerly European Headquarters for Texas Instruments - sits proudly on one of the highest spots in Bedford having been designed along similar lines to TI's Dallas HQ by the American architects O'Neil Ford & Richard Colley.

That meant not only was the style unusual for its time but also that the building would withstand

hurricanes! A brand new staff cafe, courtyard area, fully refurbished and entirely flexible working space and regular staff parties make this a fantastic base for businesses of all sizes.

Judges commented on the care and attention given to the needs of each individual business' requirement and the excellent shared facilities on offer.



## Shortlisted: Watton Recruitment

PHILOMENA Watton from Watton Recruitment started the business in 2014 from her sheer passion for the industry.

She said: "I've been doing recruitment for about ten-12 years, always within the Bedfordshire area and I got the opportunity to set up on my own and followed my dreams within the area."

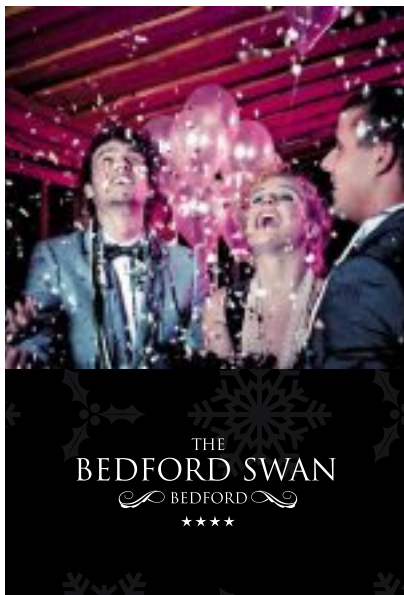
"The best thing about being in business in

Bedfordshire is the people and the community in Bedford."

She added: "We've won customer service awards and just been the real heart of recruitment and we never want to lose that."

"We've got good old-fashioned morals and we want to continue being as successful as we already are."

She hopes it can be Bedford's 'go-to' agency.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Best Employee: Ruth Tippell

"I REALLY love working with young people, I love teaching and motivating them as I want all of them to work to the best of their ability."

This is the ethos that makes Ruth Tippell, a computer lecturer at Bedford College, a true star and a deserving winner of the Employee of the Year award.

For this category, we asked businesses to nominate their most prized asset, their staff, and to highlight what positive effect they have had on the business.

An impressive track record on paper and in person saw Ruth nominated.

Her achievements speak for themselves and judges were quick to praise her 'above and beyond' approach to every task she appears to be set.

Not only has she made valuable contributions to her own working environment, but across the borough.

On being nominated Ruth said: "It's come as a big surprise to me. I feel really privileged to be nominated for this award."

Ian Pryce, CEO of Bedford College, said: "We nominated Ruth for the award because she's an excellent member of staff and has been an excellent member of staff for 17 years."

TOP OF THE CLASS: Winner Ruth Tippell, with BoS media/sales director Carlie Lewis and regional MD for Trinity Mirror, Richard Duxbury



"The results of her students have improved considerably. She takes such a keen interest in them. Previously only one in three would progress to the next level and now it's up to four in five and that's all down to Ruth and her passion to get the best out of all her students."

"Overall, it's the fact that she works extremely hard."

"I can require people to teach but I can't require them to be an excellent teacher so she's decided to be excellent."

"She's the one that serves our community, our college and students so well."

She was also described by one of her students as a 'big inspiration'.

And after she was crowned the

winner she spoke about how happy she was.

Ruth told BoS: "I'm absolutely delighted and thrilled to have won."

"I was put through for this nomination by my line manager within the computing department which came as a wonderful surprise."

"It was great to be nominated

but I cannot describe how I feel to have won, I am ecstatic."

"I really love working with young people, I love teaching and motivating them as I want all of them to work to the best of their ability."

"Doing what I do is so rewarding as many students when they come to college don't have belief in themselves so it feels very special to show them they have something positive to give society and enrich the lives of themselves and others."

"To be recognised for work that I love is truly wonderful."

What our judges said...

"What makes Ruth stand out is that her achievements at Bedford College have impacted on the lives of so many young people. The testimonies of her students and colleagues are quite exceptional and we are lucky to have her working with our students."

- Sarah Cox, editor of Bedfordshire on Sunday

## Shortlisted: Jack Hunter

JACK Hunter is a property manager for Belvoir in Bedford and is responsible for taking care of landlords' properties and liaising with tenants.

He said: "I'm really honoured, obviously, that I received the nomination for the award and I'm glad that the people in my company respect me enough and obviously think I'm good enough to win it."

Belvoir lettings negotiator Lewis Clark said: "Since joining, he's only been here four or five months now, he's made a fantastic difference to our team."

"It's a pleasure to work with him on a daily basis and I hope he stays here for a long time."

Judges said Jack was clearly a young man with a lot of ideas and is already an indispensable member of the team.



## Shortlisted: Francesca Castagnaro

FRANCESCA is a renewals manager for Mayfair Insurance and Mortgage Consultants Ltd.

She said: "I didn't actually know I was going to be entered for this award until I saw my name in the paper which was a surprise."

Office manager Lynda Gentle said: "There are many, many reasons why we entered Francesca for this award."

"I will name a few - she's reliable, hard-working, she's been with us for 20 years, she never gets recognised because she's so shy but she's the most helpful member of staff we have got."

Judges were particularly impressed by Francesca's rapid rise through the ranks of the business and the commendations from her seniors.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Young Business Person: James Gray

sponsored by Old Road Securities PLC

IN a time of sky-high university fees and economic uncertainty, it is no small feat to launch your own product or service as a fledgling business person.

After a 'rollercoaster year' James Gray, the managing director of Ampthill Fireplaces, said one year ago he 'would never have believed' where he would be now.

On Thursday, his business was shortlisted for two of our categories – Family Business of the year and Young Business Person of the Year.

From Saturday boy to managing director: James did not expect to be MD at the age of 26, but after a difficult year in which he lost his father after a seven month battle with cancer he has risen to the challenge with gusto.

Judges were extremely impressed by James' dedication to taking on the hefty mantle of a well-established business. A community spirit and entrepreneur truly deserving of this accolade.

After scooping the top gong in this competitive category, Mr Gray told BoS: "I was really surprised, I didn't see it coming. So I'm a little bit blown away and excited."

"It's weird because if someone

**BRIGHT YOUNG THING:** James Gray, of Ampthill Fireplaces, collects his award from Chris Kilroy, director of ORS and Trinity Mirror regional MD Richard Duxbury



had said to me a year from now you will be a managing director, I wouldn't have believed them."

And our Young Business Person of the Year has big plans for 2017.

He said: "As well as fireplaces and wood burning stoves we will enter a new market

and start doing pizza ovens. At the moment we're a very seasonal business and we'd like to even out the trade over the year."

Ampthill Fireplaces was founded by James' father Chris Gray in 1991 when he decided to turn his

passion for restoring antique fireplaces into his full-time job.

The store has built a reputation for supplying roaring fires guaranteed to keep you warm on a frosty evening. It is the biggest showroom of its kind in Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire

and Hertfordshire. We will be following Mr Gray's career with interest.

In a first for the awards evening, category sponsor and Deputy Lord Lieutenant, Chris Kilroy, announced that our two runners-up would receive Highly Commended certificates for their achievements.

Judges were wowed by all three nominees and found it very difficult pick a winner.

James has had a phenomenal year and was in good company for this competitive category.



## Shortlisted: Alex Kerr

ALEX is the owner of AKS Tuning which specialises in modifying performance vehicles.

He said: "We are unique in the fact that we take a normal every day car and tune it right up to whatever the customer really wants so high power, high torque, performance handling, braking, ready for track days, for fast roads and do our own range of products as well to fit these vehicles

and import from all over the world to get the parts on these cars and make them specific for the customers' needs."

With clients from all over the UK, AKS Tuning's Bedfordshire base has proved handy as the travel links make it easy to get to.

Judges were bowled over by this young businessman who has worked extremely hard to make his business dream a reality.



## Shortlisted: Alex Somervell

ALEX Somervell is the co-founder of One Third Stories which creates books which start in English and end in a different language by gradually introducing foreign words.

He said: "We came up with the idea with a friend of mine from Bedford while at university and it was kind of a side-project that we were just doing and then it kind of evolved

into being a business once we'd graduated and we've been doing it full time for a year now. One of the best things [about working in Bedfordshire] is that it's a community and full of people who are really supportive about what we're doing."

Judges praised Alex's passion for his product and impressive track record securing investment in a short period of time.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Family Business of the Year: Spitfire Scaffolding

THERE is something special about a family coming together to work hard and build a success business – and that is exactly what this firm has done.

Spitfire Scaffolding is a small, family-run business proud of its working class roots and its dedicated team of staff.

The Corbett brothers from Putnoe set-up the scaffold supply, erect and hire service in 2009, and today Nigel is at the helm of a firm with five members of staff and some huge projects in the pipeline.

It is this hard work that secured them the top spot in our Family Business of the Year award.

Nigel said of the business: "We like to think we use a lot of the latest technology with the scaffolding and also with the office cloud systems and we use a lot of local labour and suppliers - all of our suppliers come from a 20 mile radius.

"There are lots of young lads out there that want apprenticeships and we train them up and turn them into fully fledged scaffolders.

"Plans for the future are to continue to grow the business in a steady way and to employ more local talent and provide for my family and my brothers' families



SKY HIGH: Deputy Lord Lieutenant Deborah Inskip presents the award to the staff from Spitfire Scaffolding, also pictured here with Trinity Mirror regional MD Richard Duxbury

for many years to come." Our judges connected instantly with this firm's personality and passion for their work.

One of our judges said they display 'the grit and determination to make the business work as a family' while also recognis-

ing the impressive growth achieved over the last five years.

Another praised the support shown to apprentices by the family firm, which has employed one full time since training and have several more under their wing.

And upon winning the award the team was delighted.

Operations director, Anna Plaster, told BoS: "The award itself is very fitting as the three brothers set up this business as a family and there is an entire family of strong women backing

these men in making Spitfire a success. These women, the wives, the daughters, have helped to make this business a success and a real family effort.

"But it's not just the blood connection; it is the family-centred ethos we have with everyone who is involved in this business.

"This is demonstrated in the support we give our apprentices, both in training and financially, and nurture them as they grow in their careers.

"It is a family business and that family has expanded to incorporate everyone who is part of it."

### What our judges said...

"This is a family firm Bedfordshire can be proud of; from nurturing young talent to working together as a family to achieve exceptional things, we wish them every success."

- Cheryl Smart MBE, Chief Executive of Bedfordshire Chamber of Commerce

## Shortlisted: Flitwick Jewellers

MARGARET Harris opened her shop in 1977.

She said: "I'd always wanted my own business. But it was very difficult establishing a shop because at that time you had to pay a premium for a big shop in town. So I took a chance and had the shop here in Flitwick.

"... We had a lot of local customers right from day one and it's just grown from there."

Margaret works in the shop alongside family members and staff - who she sees as extended family. She added: "The best thing about being in business in Bedfordshire is the local feeling."

Judges praised an innovative approach to exploiting online potential whilst bucking the national trend by expanding their physical presence in town centres across the region.



## Shortlisted: Ampthill Fireplaces

JAMES Gray, the managing director of Ampthill Fireplaces, said: "To be nominated for two awards is really cool. It's been a bit of a rollercoaster year so this is certainly one of my highlights in the last 12 months.

"There is lots more I would like to achieve and I am excited about next year and launching new products.

"As well as fireplaces and

wood burning stoves we will enter a new market and start doing pizza ovens.

"From a customer point of view and a supplier point of view being in Bedfordshire certainly helps and also it's just a nice county. Being in the centre of Ampthill like our showroom is we have also got a nice park, quirky boutique shops and it's a nice street to walk down."



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Small Business: The Pavilion

sponsored by Verve Properties

**RUNNING** a business is more than just a job, it truly is a way of life.

All the finalists in this category demonstrated outstanding commitment to their business and its employees and have managed to build a reputation in Bedfordshire and beyond.

But our winner for 2016 was 'all-day dining destination' The Pavilion.

It was recently described on Trip Advisor as a 'five-star gem' and 'an important part of life' in the town. It is also listed in the Good Food Guide as a 'thriving community hub.'

Director Emma Garrett has led this quirky cafe from strength to strength since it reopened in a disused cricket pavilion in the heart of picturesque Bedford Park in 2014.

Emma has placed the community at the heart of her business – one judge said – and they have not let her down. She is clearly not afraid to roll her sleeves up and never seems to run out of enthusiasm for new projects.

Ms Garrett said: "It's all about community and people and pulling people together and getting out in the fresh air for all sorts of activities and events as well as offering delicious coffee, cake and The Pavilion has gone from



**DISH OF THE DAY:** Emma Garrett (second from right) and her Pavilion team receive the award from director of Verve Properties Tim Pain (far left) and Trinity Mirror MD, Richard Duxbury

strength to strength really. We have got an amazing team in the kitchen and we are in the Good Food Guide in Bedford for 2017. We are the only Bedford restaurant in the Good Food Guide so we must be doing something right.

"We are constantly evolving

and working with our customers to see what they want. We do lots of events and we are hoping to expand next year for example in September there will be an open air kids' production.

"The people are what makes it; my customers, the team that I work with, other people in

Bedford town. I do a lot of collaboration - for example I have an art exhibition which changes every six weeks and groups which come for their supper clubs at The Pavilion and it's working with the people of Bedford that really makes it for me."

After winning Small Business of the Year, she said: "I am extremely chuffed, very excited. It was a really tough category. In the original nominations that were published there were 15 other businesses so I didn't think we'd get through to the last three.

"And then two people that I work with - the fishmongers and Canoe Trail were shortlisted too. I know them really well so I know how brilliant they are and how well they work with the community.

"But I'm really thrilled to have won, I was really surprised. It makes it all worthwhile."



A word from our sponsor... "Verve Developments was so pleased to be involved in these awards because successful people and successful businesses deserve to be recognised. Very well done to all nominees."

- Tim Pain, managing director

## Shortlisted: GCH Fishmongers

GARY Hooper owns GCH Fishmongers which he runs with his sons Oli and George. It has now been trading for 18 months.

He said: "What's unique about our business is that we're the only independent fish retailer within about a 25 mile radius of Bedford and we sell and source fish from all over the UK.

"We buy fish from Scotland, we buy fish from Cornwall, Wales and pretty

much all over the UK and we also import fish from abroad. I decided to open this shop in Bedford with my two sons because there hasn't really been an independent fishmonger in Bedford for over ten years now."

Judges commended the loyal following surrounding their shop in such a short space of time, and the contributions they have made to local schools.



## Shortlisted: Canoe Trail

ASH and Rich run Canoe Trail, a watersports and adventure business based on the River Great Ouse.

Rich said: "We provide canoes, kayaks and paddle boards and wild camping for people who enjoy the great outdoors."

The firm also offers parties, corporate days, Adventure School which offers more skill-based learning and run programmes for the Prince's

Trust and Duke of Edinburgh. Rich's other job as a 'human powered adventurer' inspired the firm's launch and after starting with one vehicle and half a dozen boats Canoe Trail now has 65 boats and is 'ever growing'.

Judges were extremely pleased to see such impressive diversity in their offering - from youngsters to huge corporate clients.



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Large Business: Comline Auto Parts

sponsored by Keens Shay Keens

A CABINET full of awards has already been won by this automotive supply firm, but ours is a welcome addition.

The Luton-based business celebrates 25 years in 2016, and it's a milestone that has been marked in some style with a Queen's Award for Enterprise in international Trade and now the firm has taken home the Large Business Award in the Bedfordshire Business Awards.

Comline's Leigh Davies said: "Comline is currently one of the fastest growing automotive brands in Europe and we are exporting our replacement parts to over 40 countries.

"This success in overseas markets as well as at home has seen a number of awards and accolades for our business, most notably the Queen's Award for Enterprise for International Trade in 2016.

"Comline has become a real standout success but our recipe is really very, very simple - we focus on delivering high quality products that deliver consistent, reliable performance and very real value for money for our customers. Value that will allow our customers to run profitable, successful businesses.

"The benefit of being in Bedfordshire is simply the



TOP GEAR: (l-r) Director of Keens Shay Keens Accountants, Charles Little, presents the award to the team at Comline AutoParts, with Trinity Mirror MD Richard Duxbury

people. Bedfordshire has a very rich pool of diverse talent to choose from and Comline has certainly benefitted from that and bringing in high quality talent from the Bedfordshire area has played a pivotal role in

our success." Employing more than 110 staff members at its Luton headquarters located in Sundon Park Road and well over 150 in total across all European premises, this is a firm which truly deserves to call itself a

great Bedfordshire business and we clearly agreed.

Judges were extremely impressed by the significant growth achieved by this global exporter and close local ties to the community, including

dedicated support of Luton Town Football Club.

Mr Davies said of their win: "It's incredible to win, it has taken me aback really.

"You come to these awards thinking it is lovely to be nominated so when they called our name it was a wonderful surprise.

"It has been a great year for us and we have some important accolades and this is right up there.

"To be recognised locally at these awards has been fantastic."



A word from our sponsor...  
"We were delighted to sponsor this award, which represents and be a part of these fantastic awards. Congratulations to our worthy winner."

- Charles Little, director KSK

## Shortlisted: iCandy

WINNERS of the Queen's Enterprise Award for International Trade for 2016, iCandy is a brand which continues to grow its international recognition.

Head of marketing, Tom Bateman, said: "The best thing about being in business in Bedfordshire for us is location - we need space here for a head office and also for our warehousing facilities and = we work



with a lot of local companies as well so being able to network have local suppliers is really important to us.

"We have got some big plans for the future - international development is

really important to us. We now have account managers in France, Benelux and Germany and we see them as big growth areas

Judges had high praise for this all-round performer with international profile.

## Shortlisted: Osborne Appointments

DAWN Knights is the operations manager at Osborne Appointments which is based in Lurke Street, Bedford, and celebrates 21 years in 2016.

She said: "We're commercial and industrial recruitment specialists.

"What makes us unique is our experience, in the field in the Bedford office alone we've got at least 60 years' experience in recruitment. We specialise

in a number of different industries and we also advise clients so we consider ourselves to be quite an advisory service as much as an agency."

Dawn added: "Moving forward we're hoping we'll just continue to get bigger and bigger and be able to provide a service to all our candidates and clients."

Judges said they clearly have an even brighter future ahead.



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**We wish to congratulate all the people who have participated in the Bedfordshire on Sunday's Business Awards.**



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# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Business of the Year: iCandy

sponsored by our headline partner Barclays

HUNDREDS of entrants from incredible business across Bedfordshire were whittled down to just one, which took home the prestigious title of Business of the Year at our inaugural awards.

This category - intended to recognise business excellence in every field - was selected by our headline sponsor Barclays.

And the winning company has certainly had a phenomenal year.

It has built considerably on its already internationally renowned brand as a luxury pushchair retailer, realised phenomenal sales growth and was recognised by the Queen for its contribution to the international export market.

Donna Minnett, area business manager for Barclays in Bedfordshire (pictured inset), said: "The business is a real family affair with the grandsons of the original founder, back in 1933, still running things today.

"There really is no better time to recognise a company which continues to go from strength to strength.

"A new product is sold every 12 seconds across the world and it is all credit to the team which works so hard in Biggleswade.

"Its involvement in the local community, from charity football matches to shooting international marketing campaigns just down the road at Jordan's Mill, also shows what fantastic ambassadors it has been for this county.

"Barclays is excited to announce that for 2016, the winner of Business of the Year is iCandy."

iCandy is recognised across the world as one of the leading luxury nursery brands.

Brothers Bradley and Warren Appel still run their main operations from Biggleswade.

Together with their astounding track record of growth and brand awareness, judges were also impressed by their willing-

LIFE IS SWEET: Thomas Bateman and Matt Newton, from iCandy in Biggleswade, collect their top award



ness to get involved with the local community, taking part in local fun days.

Head of marketing at iCandy Tom Bateman said winning Business of the Year came as a 'complete shock' to his team.

He said: "We had a lovely night, it was absolutely fantastic.

"We've had a really successful year and this was just the icing on the cake for us.

"It's a testament to the hard graft that the team has put in." He said that if he could go back and start iCandy again, he wouldn't change anything.

"It's been a really successful model, we've just gone from strength to strength really."

His advice for up-and-coming businesses is to 'work hard'.

"And I think the event showed how important networking is. The support of the community and other businesses has been really important to us."

On the night, we also heard from Jon Corbett, Head of Beds, Bucks & Northants, Barclays Corporate & Business Banking - see right.

“

Barclays are delighted to headline sponsor the first Bedfordshire Business Awards. It's a time to celebrate the success of the businesses in this region.

We've been inspired by the stories of success where businesses have explored new opportunities and overcome challenges.

Each business reflects the diversity of the economy and demonstrates why Bedfordshire is such an exciting place to do business. There are some terrific success stories across this region and Barclays is committed to helping its clients to realise their growth ambitions.



Jon Corbett - Head of Beds, Bucks & Northants, Barclays Corporate & Business Banking

## iCandy

Beautifully British Design



Business of the Year 2016  
Bedfordshire Business Awards





# Bedfordshire Business Awards 2016



## Lifetime Achievement: Geoff Irvine

sponsored by Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service

A MAN who began his career strapping tools to his motorbike and ended up at the helm of a multi-million pound company - and at the heart of a town's rugby club - took home the Lifetime Achievement Award at this year's Bedfordshire Business Awards.

Geoff Irvine, known to most as the chairman of Bedford Blues Rugby Club, has been a staple part of business in Bedford for more than 50 years.

Laying bricks was not the career path he had originally intended as he had dreams of a life travelling the world with the Navy.

But after falling short at the final hurdle because of his eyesight, he was left to plot a path on land.

Never one to be held back, he forged his way, setting up a partnership with Ron Whitlock in 1963 with £50 in the bank.

Their first job was to build a new factory for Kayser Bondor in Biggleswade and this led to major brickwork projects in Canary Wharf, and the world renowned Glyndebourne Opera House.

But it's not all about business. What also makes this man stand out is the amount he has given back to the community, particularly helping the Blues when they ran into problems.

The Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Service, and Geoff was introduced by chief fire officer Paul Fuller CBE, who said: "If you ask any former employees what they think of this man, it's sure to be the personal touches they remember.

"Setting up bank accounts for workers if they needed one, remembering everyone's names. And while the journey doesn't look like ending any time soon, today he will join us on the stage having achieved so much since it all started with those bike rides into work."

When Geoff took to the stage to receive his award, there was a lump-in-the-throat moment when he spoke about his family and his close friend Dave Ledsom, who died in 2008.

He said in his acceptance speech: "All I've ever wanted to do is give something back to the town I was born in.

"I was very lucky, I was born to Irish immigrant parents on the wrong side of town - 25 London Road - opposite George's cafe for those of you as old as me, and fortunate enough to get a scholarship to the Modern School."

He added: "Looking after the rugby club a



lot of what I do is in the memory of Dave Ledsom. He got me involved in the club, was a fantastic bloke and gave so much to this town even though he wasn't born here.

"I was lucky enough to have been born in Bedford, and although I've lived in London now for 30 odd years, my heart will always be in Bedford."

When *BoS* caught up with him after his win, he said: "I came from a very poor background; my dad was an Irish labourer and mum was a lovely lady.

"The pair of them could barely read and write and from 11 years old I was running the family, writing the cheques.

"I was driven to better myself, got a scholarship to Bedford Modern School, and then

having got there and had children, I just wanted to provide my children with a better lifestyle. If I had one wish it would be to have my parents alive to see this.

"My parents died 25 years ago and never

really saw me as a success. My parents worked hard to keep the family going.

"A lot of what I do is for them and I just wish they could have seen this and I hope they are proud of me."

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## Luton on Sunday Christmas Competition, Courtesy of The Grove Theatre Dunstable

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#### Aladdin

Fly away to the colourful heights of Peking, China with this year's spectacular pantomime Aladdin at the Grove Theatre, Dunstable!

That's right, panto season is fast approaching. Oh no it isn't! Oh yes it is! Make this season one to remember with the enchanting tale of an honest peasant boy, Aladdin, who plans to build a bigger and better life with the help of a magic genie. But, will Aladdin escape the evil clutch of the dastardly Abanazar? Will Aladdin win Princess Jasmine's heart?

Soap villain of the decade Brian Capron, who played the evil Richard Hillman in Coronation Street, will take on another wicked act as Abanazar in this year's panto. As well as regular appearances on TV, Brian is also established in various theatre roles. In pantomime Brian has enlivened the devilish characters as a seasoned baddie and has the perfect qualities to bring to life the true baddie, Abanazar in Aladdin.

From villain to funny man, CBBC

presenter Ed Petrie has been announced as Wishee Washee in this year's Aladdin. A firm favourite with family audiences, Ed has spent ten years on television establishing himself as a comedic actor. Initially starting on CBBC as a continuity presenter, Ed quickly landed his own shows with sidekicks Ouchie T. Cactus and CBBC dogs Hacker and Dodge, before starting his hugely popular current shows, Marrying Mum And Dad and All Over The Place for the channel. Ed is set to bring energy and fun to the role of Wishee Washee!

The magic of panto just keeps giving as the panto dame Widow Twankey and the Genie of the Lamp will be played by Kieran and Sarah of Britain's Got Talent fame, respectively. In 2014, Kieran and Sarah's remarkable performances of popular opera hits got them all the way to the semi-finals of the ITV programme. Now they spend most of the year performing in venues around the country and on cruise ships all over the world. On stage, they have appeared in numerous pantomimes including Robin Hood And The Babes In The Wood in Kent, and the Easter

pantomime of Alice in Wonderland in Cairo, Egypt.

Bringing panto nearer to home, Aladdin will be played by local actor, singer-songwriter and guitarist Joe Ashman. Joe first appeared at the Grove Theatre ten years ago, playing John in our first pantomime, Peter Pan, alongside Brian Blessed. He has since seen success in musical theatre at London's Palladium in Chitty Chitty Bang Bang and The Sound Of Music, in theatre including The Cryptogram at the Donmar Warehouse and 2,000 Feet Away at the Bush Theatre, as well as on screen as a guest lead in the 2013 New Year's Eve episode of Casualty on BBC 1. Joe is thrilled to be back at the Grove Theatre this year, playing the title role in our 10th anniversary panto!

With golden pantomime traditions and magic aplenty, Aladdin opens on Thursday 8 December 2016 and runs until Monday 2 January 2017. Tickets start from just £13 and can be purchased from the Box Office on 01582 60 20 80 or online at [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk).

Win a family tickets for 4 on 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm by answering this simple question  
**How many wishes does a Magic Genie grant Aladdin?**

A – 1

B – 3

C – 5

Please send your entries by

18-November to

Christmas Competition 2016

Luton on Sunday

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Bedford

MK40 3HD

Please provide Name and

contact number

Winners will be notified by 30<sup>th</sup> November



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# Christmas is coming to town!

SKATING, music and a festive prize draw are lined up for shoppers in Luton town centre this Christmas.



Luton town centre Business Improvement District (BID) is funding a host of events and attractions for December, including two live entertainment afternoons, carol singing on Christmas Eve and a festive free prize draw.



- Luton BID's festive fun highlights: A skating rink will return to St George's Square from 16th December to 6th January (not open Christmas Day), open from 12noon to 8pm, with skating sessions starting on the hour. Skating sessions will cost £4 for a 45 minute session. The rink will close at 4pm on Christmas Eve and will be closed for Christmas Day and New Year's Day.
- To entertain the crowds on the day of the Christmas lights switch-on event on 26th November Luton BID is funding characters from the hit children's TV programme 'Paw Patrol', who will be meeting and greeting families and getting crowds from 3pm.
- Live performances from talented

musicians and artists will entertain shoppers in St George's Square from 12noon to 4pm on Saturday 10th December and Saturday, 17th December.

- There will be carol singing in St George's Square from 1pm to 4pm on Christmas Eve.

Another highlight from Luton BID is the return of its free 'Golden Ticket' festive prize draw, with eight lucky shoppers set to win a share of £4,000 of vouchers.



Shoppers can enter by completing a Golden Ticket entry forms, found in the BID's Christmas events flyer which will be available in all town

centre businesses and shops from early November. Entry forms will also be published in the Luton on Sunday in the four weeks commencing 13th November.

Golden Ticket post boxes will be dotted around the town centre and located in the Central Library, The Galaxy, the Travel Centre / Starbucks, in The Mall and The Hat Factory.

The two prize draws will take place on 28th November and 12th December and the winning vouchers must be spent in Luton town centre, ensuring the prize draw supports only businesses in the BID area. Winners will receive one £250 voucher for a national business and £250 of vouchers to spend in independent businesses.

[www.lutontowncentre.org](http://www.lutontowncentre.org)



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## HOW TO SURVIVE CHRISTMAS In 10 Easy Steps

The Countdown to Christmas is well underway with just five weeks to the big day. But panic not, says Bedford-based life coach **Angela Brophy**, who is here to give you her 10 step guide to surviving the festive season stress free.

Tensions are starting to rise, panic is setting in 'will I be ready, presents to buy, cards to write, food to organise and oh no, relatives to invite!' OK.... stop right there!

It doesn't have to be so stressful this year, you can do this and remain calm, relaxed and enjoy the whole event. Aside from making sure everyone is happy and entertained, there are some simple things that can keep a lid on that panic.



1. Make lists – lots of them: I'm a huge believer in having a list for everything. Then you don't forget what you need to do or buy and best of all you get to cross off each thing as it's done. Start separate lists for things like presents, food shopping, who will be coming for dinner and one for any ideas about entertainment.



2. Think about what you are going to wear: I'm not talking about five minutes before, give yourself time to make sure you have what you want ready to go. Not just for Christmas dinner but for work nights out or drinks with friends.



3. Learn from the best: If you are cooking Christmas Dinner for the first time, then it's on to youtube.com for a quick cookery lesson and you will soon cook like a Pro!
4. Plan ahead: Why not use your Advent Calendar as a planner. For example, 20<sup>th</sup> December - make sure all the gifts are wrapped. 21<sup>st</sup> December - Drinks with friends. 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec - tidy the house for guests etc. You see what I mean, make it fun.

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5. Avoid awkward dinner table clashes: I'm not talking about 70s style dinner party planning here, but think about who will sit next to each other. It's common sense to avoid putting anyone that doesn't get on next to each other. You only want the turkey to get roasted on Christmas Day...

6. Party time: Think of a few party games that will help everyone to relax. Don't forget they could be feeling anxious about Christmas Dinner too. Our favourites include Christmas Carol Charades, Two Truths and a Lie, decorate a person as a Christmas Tree or the old reliable, Monopoly.

7. Don't go it alone – unless you want to: For those of you who are on your own this year, why

not book into a Christmas Party night at a local hotel. You will probably have a great time and maybe make new friends? That's unless you fancy relaxing by the fire, watching exactly what you want on television. . . hmm, doesn't sound bad now you come to mention it.

8. It's good to talk: For some people Christmas can be a sad time, bringing back memories of those they've lost. Be kind to yourself and others this festive season. Plan something nice like meal with a good friend and talk about how you feel. It's ok to feel sad but don't be alone.



9. Breathing space: If it all gets a bit much on the day then take time out for five minutes, take a deep breath, think about all the good things in your life and walk back in refreshed.

10. It's just one day: Like any other of the 365 days each year, the sun will rise and set.



You will get through it and will say something like 'next year I'll be more organised'. But you know what, you'll probably do the same again next time but so what... it's Christmas, all will be well! Enjoy being with your family and friends and relax.

Happy Christmas everyone!!

If you want to get some help with meeting your Christmas Goals or any other Goals in your life, then feel free to contact me at [angela@ready2succeed.co.uk](mailto:angela@ready2succeed.co.uk) and we can chat.

Check out my Website on [www.ready2succeed.co.uk](http://www.ready2succeed.co.uk) or Facebook Page Ready2Succeed Coaching.

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## Top gifts for girls

Girls can sometimes be picky and love to follow trends, so here is a helpful list of the most wanted gifts for girls this Christmas.

### Little ones...

#### **Snuggles My Dream Puppy £49.99, ages 4+**

With his super-soft fur, nodding head and tummy that moves when he breathes, this pooch will bring smiles aplenty this Christmas.

#### **Finding Dory My Friend Dory £37.36, ages 4+**

This toy reacts to various motions with funny sounds and phrases from the Finding Dory movie.

### Think their terrible teens...

#### **SelfieMic £19.99, ages 8+**

Wannabe pop stars and lip synch-ers can create their own music videos with this fun-packed selfie stick that features a karaoke microphone, ear piece and music app.

#### **Furby Connect £99, ages 6-14**

Explore the Furby Connect World app to make the most of your cute companion. With over 150 expressions, kids will never tire of Furby's world.



### Lovely ladies...

#### **Straightening hair brushes including BabyLiss, JML and Bestope Between £20 and £50, ages 13+**

Now every girl loves her straighteners but in 2016 the straightening hair brush became a new must have. The brushes do two jobs in one and have been highly recommended for those with frizzy and thick hair.

#### **Benefit Make-up sets Between £25 and £100, 13+**

Benefit make-up is a great starting point for young women with their step by step notes on how to apply. Their Christmas gift sets are the most talked about and now you can even build your own.

Source: Toys R Us, Smyth's Toys, Argos, Amazon, John Lewis

## Best gifts for boys

Boys often love the latest gadgets and action toys to show off to their friends during the Christmas holidays and these trending toys will definitely make the grade this Christmas.

### Little ones...

#### **BB-8 Hasbro, £59.99, ages 3+**

Star Wars remains popular this year, and this remote control BB8 is the perfect way to hand the obsession on to the next generation.

#### **Paw Patrol Air Patroller £39.99, ages 3+**

Everyone's favourite rescue dog, this Robopup pilot comes with his own jet complete with lights, sounds and cool rotating propellers.

### Think their terrible teens...

#### **Nerf Modulus Tri-Strike £59.99, ages 8+**

The first Nerf with three ways to blast your parents, pets and unsuspecting neighbours.

#### **LEGO Nexo Knights General Magmar Siege Machine Of Doom Construction Set £34.99, 8+**

Nexo Knights combine traditional LEGO sets with a Cartoon Network TV series and gaming app.



### Wanna-be macho men...

#### **Syma X5C-1 2.4G HD Camera RC Quadcopter RTF RC Helicopter with 2.0MP Camera Between £35 to £60.00, ages 14+**

Drones have been one of the most talked about gadgets of 2016 and there are so many to choose from, but as a toy this is one of the best rated for new flyers with a battery powered camera, but make sure you brush up on the rules of the air first.

#### **Sony PS4 Pro £350, 10+**

Codenamed 'Neo' the new console from Sony is the PS4 Pro and there is also the PS4 Slim. It is definitely one of the most pricey presents but some gaming shops are doing Christmas offers of free games including FIFA 2017 when you buy the console.

Source: Toys R Us, Smyth's Toys, Argos, Amazon, John Lewis



# New Year Resolutions

**They are made and all too quickly broken, in most people's cases, but why do we make New Year's resolutions.**

Although it is a popular custom in the Western world, the tradition of making promises at New Year appears to date back to ancient Babylon where the people made promises to the gods.

The resolutions centred on returning borrowed items and paying off debts. The Romans also made resolutions – particularly to the god Janus, after whom the month of January is named. In

Medieval times, knights took a so-called 'peacock vow' at the end of Christmas which was intended to show their continuing commitment to chivalry.

Nowadays popular New Year's resolutions include losing weight, stopping smoking, being kinder to friends and family, learn a language or donating more to charity.

Will you be keeping up the tradition this year?

Why not make plans that will benefit your whole family, here's a few ideas we have.

**Go Unplugged:** We spend so much time looking at screens – whether it is the TV, laptop, tablet or smartphone. So why not resolve to unplug all gadgets for one day a week and have some quality family time and enjoy being together without Distractions!

**Get Active;** Many people resolve to 'lose weight' or 'get fit' in the New Year but instead of dieting or going to the gym. Why not try to spend more time enjoying some active fun with the family?

**Take up a new hobby;** Taking up a new hobby as a family is a great way to bond and learn new skills. There is

a million and one things to do out there you could take up anything from archery to Zumba.

**De-clutter your home:** It was William Morris (leader of the English Arts and Crafts Movement) who said: 'Have nothing in your house that you do not know to be useful, or believe to be beautiful.'

**Let the kids get bored:** In today's busy world, it is easy to fall into the trap of over-scheduling your family activities. Why not try a little less structure occasionally and allow the children to entertain themselves. This can help them to develop independence, social skills, creativity and imagination.

**Sort out those photographs:** Most of us have thousands of pictures on our phones or computers but rarely do we take the time to get them developed. Make 2017 the year you get them sorted, printed and put into frames or albums.

**Whatever your resolution is resolve is to keep it!**



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# Santa Brownies

Ok, we'll admit it: we cheated a little. Although using a pre-packaged brownie mix won't earn you too many points in the Great British Bakeoff tent, turning to Betty Crocker or her associates will save you time over the hectic festive period. These cute bites are simple to whip up for unannounced guests, but look impressive enough to take along to a party. And why not earn a few points with Santa by leaving one out for him on Christmas Eve?

## Method:

1. Follow the instructions provided by the manufacturer to bake your brownies. Allow the tray to cool before shaping the cakes into rounds using a cookie cutter. Aim to get between 12 and 16 circles.
2. Beat the butter and mascarpone cheese together until light and creamy. Mix in the vanilla extract and salt, before adding the icing sugar a little at a time. Continue to beat the ingredients together. A little more icing sugar might be required in order to achieve a consistency that's stiff enough for it not to run off the top of the brownies.
3. Pipe a ring of buttercream on to the top of each brownie round. Alternatively, use a teaspoon to neatly apply a medium-thick layer.
4. Cut off the strawberry leaves, and push the flat base of each fruit on to an iced brownie.
5. To finish, add a dab of buttercream to the tip of each strawberry.

## This recipe will make 12-16 brownies.

### You will need:

A packet of chocolate brownie mix  
(Read the directions on the box to see whether you will need to add any other ingredients to the batter. Individual brands may differ but most require an egg, oil and water.)  
12-16 small strawberries

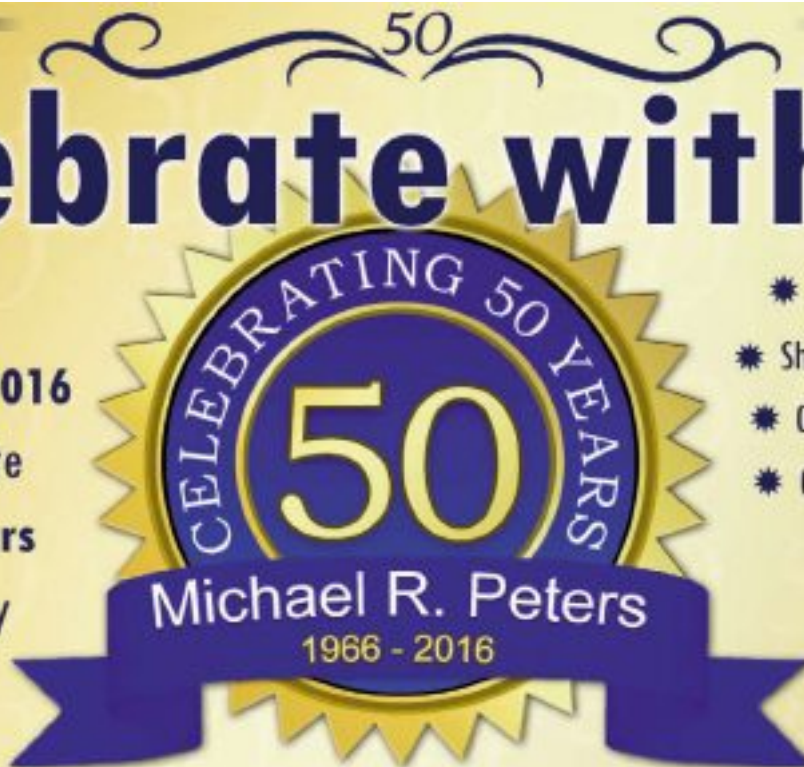
### For the vanilla mascarpone buttercream:

115g of unsalted butter  
115g mascarpone cheese  
385g icing sugar  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
A pinch of salt



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# 12 Beers of Christmas

## BLACK SHEEP - BLITZEN (4%)

Although it's only been around since 2014, this limited-edition brew has become a festive favourite for beer lovers around the country. With orange and mixed peels offsetting the Cascade and Goldings hops, it's an exceptional after-dinner drop.

## BEAVER TOWN - SMOG ROCKET (5.4%)

This hearty porter from the fashionable London microbrewery uses nine different malts, including a good hit of smoked 'Rauchmaltz' from Germany. The resulting flavour, with hints of molasses and caramel, pairs the beer well with rich desserts.

## CHEDDAR ALES - FESTIVE TOTTY (4.7%)

Available as a seasonal only in November and December, this ale will leave you yearning for it in the ensuing months thanks in no small part to the ruby port used in its brewing, which delivers a cockle-warming glow every time.

## HARVEY'S - CHRISTMAS ALE (7.5%)

This complex brew, with strong malt and chestnut flavours, is more a dark barley wine recalling the robust 'stock ales' drunk during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and should be treated with respect it deserves.

## ILKLEY BREWERY - MARY CHRISTMAS (4.7%)

With its "peace beer with you" tagline, and a brewing ingredients list encompassing cloves, cinnamon, nutmeg and vine-fruit, this ale is simply Christmas in a glass. A great alternative to wine to accompany the turkey dinner.

## M&S - GREENWICH WINTER SPICED PORTER (5.5%)

A full-flavoured and well-balanced porter with aromatic cinnamon and spice notes. It matches up with most festive dishes, be it savoury and sweet, but goes down particularly well with an after-dinner cheeseboard or a rich, fruity pudding.

## MARBLE BREWERY - CHOCOLATE MARBLE (5.5%)

This unclassifiable beer - could be a mild or a porter - is Marble's longest standing recipe. Brewed with an emphasis on chocolate malts, it combines flavours of cocoa, coffee and licorice with a quenching bitter finish.

## MOOR - OLD FREDDY WALKER (7.4%)

One of the more celebrated festive ales, lauded Winter Beer of Britain and one of CAMRA's '300 Beers To Try Before You Die', its blend of pale and black malts with a hint of orange matches it well with chocolates or Christmas pud.

## SHEPHERD NEAME - CHRISTMAS ALE (5%)

Available throughout November and December, this classic drop from Britain's oldest brewer uses Target and Challenger hops for bitterness and Goldings for aroma, resulting in a brew boasting notes of vanilla and spices and a heady, fruity nose.

## ST PETER'S - CHRISTMAS ALE (7%)

A fruity, full-bodied beer in the finest English strong ale tradition, with notes of dried fruits, spices and orange peel. Served either at room temperature or slightly chilled, it's a great companion for savouries, sweets and snacks. (St Peter's also do Merry Elf, which at 4.5% is a lighter sister ale).

## THEAKSTON - CHRISTMAS ALE (4.7%)

Another seasonal beer which effectively blends its hops with raisins and cinnamon for an evocative taste, which will bring out the best flavours of almost any food it's paired with but in particular strong cheeses.

## WILLIAMS BROTHERS - NOLLAIG (7%)

This special festive spruce beer is a limited annual release, exhibiting bronze hues and a rich malt backbone. Its bold combination of American hops with actual spruce sprigs makes it a truly authentic taste of Christmas.



# The best red wines this Christmas

'Tis the season to be merry, and that means selecting the right wines to see you through the celebrations, especially if you're entertaining guests. Christmas is also the perfect time of year to try out new wines and deviate from old favourites. Although not traditional for every course, you can find reds to suit every plate and please every palate. So here's a seasonal selection of the best this year, matched up with classic festive food items.

## PARTY NIBBLES AND CHEESES

Amarone della Valpolicella, 2012 (£12.49, Lidl)  
One of Italy's most popular wines and rightly so, this delicious red is warming and well balanced, with noticeable hints of cherry and chocolate. Great with cheese and crackers.

## ROAST TURKEY AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS

Luigi Bosca Single Vineyard Malbec, 2013 (£17.99, Waitrose)

Splash out this December and give your taste buds a Christmas treat with this

wine's subtle explosion of ripe plums, plus a slight spicy bite, to add a touch of luxury to your turkey dinner.

## GREAT GOOSE

Villa Blanche Pinot Noir, 2014 (£8.99, Waitrose)  
An elegant drop that's bursting with blackcurrants and cherries, followed by a floral and minty finish. It makes a well-suited accompaniment to more gamey meat like goose or venison.

## MINCE PIES AND PUD

Royal Tokaji 5 Puttonyos, 2013 (£18.99, Lidl)  
With its piquant scents of tangy marmalade and creme brulee, this sweet dessert wine is perfectly paired with a mince pie or an after-dinner chocolate, if you've still room.

## BOXING DAY ROAST BEEF

Taste the Difference Douro, Portugal, 2012 (£8, Sainsbury's)

Finally, made by renowned port and table wine producer Quinta do Crasto, this Portuguese red offers a floral loveliness to offset its rich fruits of the forest and juicy tannins, making it ideal for red meat.





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*"Fresh and funny... A fantastic festive treat!"*  
British Theatre Guide  
Aladdin 2012/13

*"Outstanding"*  
Herts Advertiser  
Snow White 2011/12



8<sup>th</sup> Dec 2016 - 8<sup>th</sup> Jan 2017

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20:11:16

# onthe go

## Thriller night!

Michael Jackson (almost)  
live at The Grove - page 28



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## SHOW



# The King is back

MICHAEL Jackson is not only remembered as one of the most influential artists of all time, but many of today's artists have been inspired by his iconic style.

His career spanned nearly five decades of music, and he was continually at the forefront of popular music.

Now, the magic of the King of Pop will be coming to the Grove Theatre for one night only, as Jackson Live in Concert takes to the stage as parts of its 2016 UK tour.

In its sixth year of touring, Jackson Live in Concert sees long-time fan and hugely talented Ben Bowman recreate the Michael Jackson experience with his stunning rendition of all his favourite songs, including Billie Jean and Beat It.

Mr Bowman said: "From as far into my childhood as I can remember, I have always been obsessed with Michael Jackson. Everything about the King of Pop mesmerized and enchanted me."

"I used to spend hours pouring over album covers, photographs, interviews, videos and anything I could find that was about Michael."

"Even my 7th birthday party was Michael Jackson themed!"

The lifelong fan has sacrificed a lot pursuing his dream becoming one of the

world's top Michael Jackson tribute acts, battling debt in his early years and struggling to make an impact, as tribute acts to the King of Pop were not in high demand.

The performance takes you on a journey through Michael's backcatalogue, through early chart-stormers like Thriller and Man in the Mirror to his latest hits.

Mr Bowman added: "Since those early days I have enjoyed many successful years as a tribute act and loved every minute of it."

"I have travelled the world, met hundreds of people, worked with some famous acts and picked up some dear friends along the way."

Jackson Live in Concert features all-live vocals and superb musicians and dancers, fabulous costumes, and of course all the signature dance moves associated so fondly with the undisputed King of Pop.

Tickets cost £21 or £18 for concessions and are available online by visiting [www.grovetheatre.co.uk](http://www.grovetheatre.co.uk), or by calling the box office on 01582 602080.

A £1.95 transaction fee applies to online and telephone bookings.

Tickets will also be available to buy in person at the Grove Theatre box office, but booking prior to the night is advised as tickets are moving quickly.

## OUT &amp; ABOUT

## Fete brings lots of festive bargains

KEECH Hospice Care is holding its annual Warehouse Christmas Fete today.

The huge sale of festive decorations, party wear and table wear kicks off at 11.30am this morning and runs until 4pm at St Johns Catholic Church Hall on Sundon Park Road, Luton.

There will also be tea, coffee and cakes available to buy to support and raise funds for the charity.



## OUT &amp; ABOUT

## How to banish the bullies with words

CHILDREN can learn how to stand up to bullies with a book reading and papercraft at Luton libraries for anti-bullying week.

The Go Away, Big Green Monster reading creates an ingenious way for children to chase away their nighttime fears.

Recommended for ages five plus, the session is free and there is no need to book. It runs at Luton Central

Library on Saturday, November 26 from 11am to 11.45am.

Another session will take place at Stopsley Library, also on Saturday, November 26 from 2.15pm to 3pm.

GO AWAY, BIG GREEN MONSTER  
 LUTON LIBRARIES  
 NOVEMBER 26

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## CHRISTMAS

# All Go! at the Mall

CHRISTMAS is coming to The Mall in Luton with a sensational Go!Go!Go! Electro Show and a Magical Fairy Wonderland where children can visit Father Christmas.

On Saturday November 26, family pop group Go!Go!Go!, who feature on Nick Jr every day, will be bringing their amazing catchy tunes with a banging electro twist and friendly style to The Mall's Church Street stage.

The exciting show will introduce fans to the new electro dancers and their famous tracks, remixed by top DJs, which will be followed by performances from choirs singing Christmas Carols.

Families can enjoy the show, then follow Go!Go!Go! and Father Christmas to open The Mall's very own Christmas Fairground.

Children will be able to visit Father Christmas in his magical fairy tree home in Central Square from Saturday, November 26 until Christmas Eve.

Every Saturday there will also be free mini face painting for those in the queue between 11am and 4pm to make the wait easier.

School bookings will receive a 10% discount and special needs school visits will be free.

Shoppers will also be able to enjoy the crystal Christmas Tree where The Mall's own fairy will magically light it up throughout the day.

The crystal Christmas Tree will be located outside Boots.



CHRISTMAS  
THE MALL  
FROM NOVEMBER  
26

Lavinia Douglass, Marketing Manager at The Mall Luton, said: "Christmas is coming to The Mall and we couldn't be more excited."

"There's plenty to get the whole family feeling festive with music from the Go!Go!Go! Electro Show, along with a magical fairground, our beautiful crystal Christmas Tree and, of course, Father

Christmas himself."

There's plenty of time to get your Christmas shopping in The Mall Luton too, with extended opening hours over the festive season.

From 15-23 December, The Mall Luton will be open 8am to 8pm Monday to Saturday and 11am to 5pm on Sundays.

The centre will also open early at 8am on Christmas Eve and stay open until 5pm to allow shoppers to grab last minute gifts.

On Boxing Day The Mall will be open from 6am for the Next sale.

The Mall will be open from 9am to 5pm on New Year's Eve and 11am to 5pm on New Year's Day.

## What's hot in Luton



A FIRST class chamber group made up of some of our most exceptional local musicians will be performing at Luton Library Theatre tomorrow evening. Goldfield Ensemble present a programme of music for clarinet and strings by Schubert and Weber. The concert opens with a performance of Schubert's Shepherd on the Rock by soprano Rachel Ridout. Full price tickets are £16 and concessions are £10, available on the door.



IF you want something a little bit different amongst your Christmas decorations this year, head to Dunstable Downs for a wreath-making workshop. The team will be leading people on a walk to gather materials to make their personalised wreaths. The session costs £25 per person and runs on December 3 from 10am. Call 0844 249 1895 to book.



DANSON Thunderbolt is no ordinary Dad, and his teenage son Luke is not so ordinary either. Luke is autistic, which makes communication difficult. In this play Danson takes to a wrestling ring to show the challenges. Tickets to the show's date at the Grove Theatre on November 24 are £14.

## COFFEE TIME

### PATHWORDS

Starting from the central shaded letter, move one letter at a time (up, down, right or left, but not diagonally) to find 15 bridges over the Thames.

H C N O D U A A H K C  
 I S L O N X V M N E I  
 I W L L A H I T H T W  
 C K P U R S M H C H E  
 T U O T E A M T B L L  
 H W S N M L B E E A S  
 R A Y E M A H T R A E  
 K M I L L T E R L O O  
 N O M H E A W M N O H  
 D T O C N N I U C T A  
 R E W I R T R U O P M

### TRANSFORMER

Add the given letter or letters to the first word to make a new word.

----- + A S

= A S -----

Clue: Below can be made into parts.

### TRAIN OF THOUGHT

What word links the following?

----- O -----

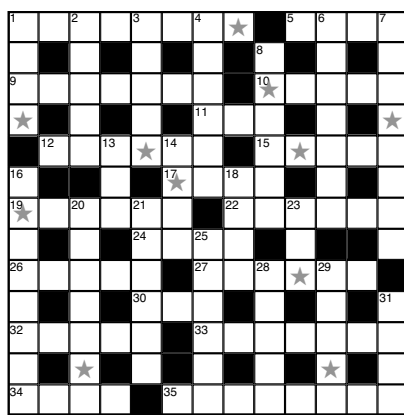
- a church decree;
- a generally accepted principle;
- texts accepted as authentic;
- a clergyman.

### FIVE ALIVE

Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid - but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.

CM	OH	EN	SE	YS
RO		IA		ET
OU	UN	CT	EU	TR
TF		KE		AI
HT	UH	SR	OK	WS

### STARSPOT CROSSWORD



Can you find the celebrity name hidden in this crossword? The letters in the starred squares will make an anagram of the name.

### CLUES ACROSS

- Powered vehicle (5,3)
- Hoodlum (4)
- Defamation (7)
- Merry frolic (5)
- Creative skill (3)
- United (6)
- Watchful (5)
- For fear that (4)
- Dawn (6)
- Human being (6)
- Against (4)
- Strong stick (5)
- Temper, toughen (6)
- Coniferous tree (3)
- Spirit of the air (5)
- Framework for climbing plants (7)
- Smooth (4)
- Unnerve (8)

### CLUES DOWN

- Ship's vertical spar (4)
- Dragnet (5)
- Spokes (5)
- Wear down (6)
- Tackle (7)
- Salutation (8)
- Landed property (6)
- Card game (3)
- Flair (4)
- Sicken (8)
- Rotate (4)
- Be aware of (7)
- Lottery (6)
- Regret (3)
- Large American fish related to the herring (6)
- Audacity (5)
- Take on (5)
- Weed (4)

### SUDOKU

Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9, and so must each 3 x 3 box.

		2		4	9			
		6					4	3
	8							
	5	8	3	6				
1			4	9		5		
			5			1		
8		1					6	
3			7		5	8	2	4
7			6		4			9

### SOLUTIONS

**STARSPOT CROSSWORD:**  
 Across - 1 Motor car; 5 Mouth; Nicks; Yells; 7 Spokes; 8 Salutation; 10 Merry frolic; 11 Creative skill; 12 United; 13 Card game; 14 Flair; 15 Sicken; 16 Rotate; 17 Be aware of; 18 Lottery; 19 Regret; 20 Large American fish related to the herring; 21 Audacity; 22 Take on; 23 Weed.  
 Down - 1 Ship's vertical spar; 2 Dragnet; 3 Spokes; 4 Wear down; 5 Tackle; 6 Salutation; 7 Landed property; 8 Card game; 9 Flair; 10 Sicken; 11 Rotate; 12 Be aware of; 13 Lottery; 14 Regret; 15 Large American fish related to the herring; 16 Audacity; 17 Take on; 18 Weed.

**TRANSFORMER:**  
 Under + AS = Asunder.  
 Clue: Below can be made into parts.

**TRAIN OF THOUGHT:**  
 Canon.  
 Clue: Below can be made into parts.

**FIVE ALIVE:**  
 Here are two miniature five-square crosswords using the same grid - but the letters have been mixed up. You have to work out which letters belong to which crossword.



# Luton

## Short Breaks



### Strictly Come Dancing – The Live Tour Manchester

Departing on 4 February 2017

Jazz up your February and join us for an evening with the stars of Strictly. The Live Tour is a fantastic follow up to the latest series which brings the magic of the TV to some of the UK's biggest arenas, and this time around it celebrates its 10th anniversary with the promise that it will be bigger and better than ever before. TV judges Len Goodman and Craig Revel Horwood will be there to give their scores on the celebrities and professional dancers, but the power is ultimately down to you, the arena audience, as you cast your own vote via your mobile phone. It's a night out not to miss out!

**Prices Includes:**

- Private coach travel from your local area
- One night's stay with cooked breakfast
- Ticket for Strictly Come Dancing – the Live Tour at the Manchester Arena
- Free time in Manchester



### Christmas in Weston-super-Mare

Departing on 23 December 2016

Join us and soak up the seasonal atmosphere of the historic 'jewel of the south west'. Enjoy four nights in an impressive seaside hotel based in the picturesque Weston-super-Mare complete with festive entertainment and Christmas lunch. Relax on a 20 mile steam train ride as you take in the sights and smells of the dramatic Somerset coastline, classic English countryside and historic places.

**Prices Includes:**

- Private coach travel from your local area
- Four nights' stay with cooked breakfast
- Christmas day lunch with all the trimmings
- Festive treats and a visit from Santa
- Entertainment every night
- Visits to Bath, Glastonbury & Wells
- A steam train journey on the West Somerset Railway



### Christmas in the Cotswolds

Departing on 23 December 2016

Capture the magic of the Cotswolds at this special time of year as we enjoy picture perfect scenery and honey coloured villages, along with elegant spa towns and a medieval gem. When we're not out and about exploring you can relax in our hotel, make new friends and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere, together with a delicious Christmas lunch and festive fun.

**Prices Includes:**

- Private coach travel from your local area
- Four nights' stay with cooked breakfast
- Welcome Drink
- Three course evening meal on three nights
- Festive entertainment
- Christmas day lunch with all the trimmings
- Visits to Royal Leamington Spa, Stratford-upon-Avon, Chipping Campden & Warwick
- Tour of the Cotswolds



### New Year in the Heart of England

Departing on 30 December 2016

New Year is traditionally a time for reflection and change so what better way to kick start it than a relaxing break away. In order to make the most of this time of year we have included two nights' hotel accommodation with evening entertainment and a delicious celebratory dinner on New Year's Eve. You will also have the chance to sample the heart of England with visits to Warwick, famed for its mediaeval castle, Stratford-upon-Avon, the birthplace of William Shakespeare and Royal Leamington Spa. So book your place today for the perfect way to round off 2016!

**Prices Includes:**

- Private coach travel from your local area
- Two nights' stay with cooked breakfast
- Three course evening meal on one night
- New Year's Eve dinner & dance
- Visits to Warwick, Stratford-upon-Avon & Royal Leamington Spa



### New Year in Windsor & London

Departing on 31 December 2016

Wave goodbye to 2016 and welcome 2017 on a short break which is ideal for anyone who wants to relax and let someone else do all the hard work of organising a New Year's party. With a visit to Windsor as well as heading to London to watch the New Year's Day Parade - the greatest annual street parade in Europe, which provides a feast of entertainment from hundreds of musicians and dancers and attracts a street side audience of nearly half a million. This really will be a New Year to remember.

**Prices Includes:**

- Private coach travel from your local area
- One night's stay with cooked breakfast
- New Year's Eve dinner & dance
- Visit to Windsor
- Free time in London for the Lord Mayor's New Year's Day Parade



### Warner Bros. Studio Tour London – featuring Hogwarts in the Snow

Departing on 21 January 2017

Step on to authentic sets, discover the magic behind spellbinding special effects and explore the behind-the-scenes secrets of the Harry Potter film series. Tread the original stone floor of the iconic Hogwarts Great Hall, encounter animatronic creatures and wander down Diagon Alley. Located at the Studios where all 8 films were produced, the Studio Tour showcases the incredible British talent, imagination and artistry that went into making the impossible a reality on screen. Visitors will relive the magic through the eyes of the filmmakers who brought the Harry Potter film series to life.

**Prices Includes:**

- Private coach travel from your local area
- One night's stay with three course evening meal & cooked breakfast
- Entrance to Warner Bros. Studio Tour London - The Making of Harry Potter, featuring Hogwarts in the Snow
- Free time in London

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This is the perfect gift for nature lovers, adventurers and outdoorsy folk, or as a treat to yourself now the evenings are drawing in faster and there's a chill in the air. £18, from Finest Imaginary Ltd, [www.finestimaginary.com](http://www.finestimaginary.com)



This fire bellows is available for £16.99 from Dobbies, [www.dobbies.com](http://www.dobbies.com)



This round firepit is made from a strong and sturdy black steel construction with a large pivoting door providing easy access when refuelling the fire. £169, from Internet Gardener, [www.internetgardener.co.uk](http://www.internetgardener.co.uk)



A fire companion set in antique brass. £34.99, from Dobbies, [www.dobbies.com](http://www.dobbies.com)

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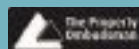
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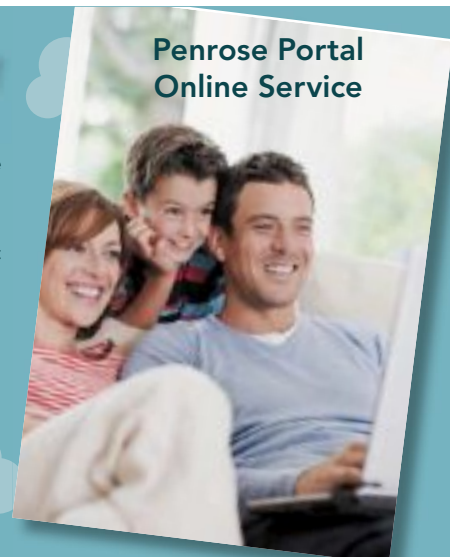
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## And the next award goes to.....



### Team Deakin-White couldn't keep off the stage at Thursday's Dunstable and Houghton Regis - Business and Community Awards picking up several awards between them.

The team's first award of the night was for Dunstable Town Football Club, the 'Sports Achievement Award', and as sponsors of the club, Committee Member & Director of Deakin-White Ed picked up their award with The Blues Goal Keeper and owner of Dunstable's HQ Sports Bar Jamie Head.

The second award came to Josh for 'Highly Commended Employee of the Year'. Josh Cummins had been nominated for the award by a number of his customers who raved about his customer care and help with finding their dream homes. Josh joined Deakin-White in May of

this year and has helped over 140 families move home since he joined the team.

Directors Ed & Sam were then on stage to present the Good Neighbour of the Year Award which they presented to former Mayor Liz Jones for her time as mayor over the last 12 months, lobbying the council, raising money for charity and taking part in local events.

It was then Bev's turn to go on stage to pick up her award for 'Highly Commended Role Model of the Year'. Beverley Whayman joined Deakin-White in 2015 and won her award for her voluntary work as a Town Councillor and for running her social media page 'About Dunstable' which she does to help promote the Dunstable community and local businesses.

Ed & Sam were then back on stage to pick up their award for 'Highly Commended New Business of the

Year'. Having opened Deakin-White in June of 2015 the boys have had a phenomenal 17 months helping over 600 people move home and have grown the team to help even more people move in the future.



Ed Harrison, Director of Deakin-White commented: 'It was an amazing evening and the team at The Dunstable and Houghton Regis Business and Community Awards have done an amazing job putting on such a great event. It was so nice to see so many people from the local community and businesses there picking up awards and supporting our towns and I'm looking forward to next year's event already'.

Deakin-White are a rapidly expanding and growing Estate Agent and

can help you get moved. If you are thinking of moving in 2017 either buying, selling, renting or letting then get in contact with the team via 01582 343 548 or [www.Deakin-White.co.uk](http://www.Deakin-White.co.uk) or check out their Facebook page [www.facebook.com/DeakinSales](https://www.facebook.com/DeakinSales)

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- Two Reception Rooms
- Ideal Investment
- Chain Free



- South Luton
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£250,000



Old Bedford Road Area

- Sought after location
- Old Bedford Road area
- Driveway and Garage
- 26ft Lounge diner



- Potential for extension
- Close to station and town centre

£275,000



Biscot

- Cul de sac
- Driveway and garage
- Secluded rear garden
- Close to town centre



- Good local amenities
- Lounge/Diner

£235,000



South Luton

- Town centre location
- Perfect buy to let
- Two reception rooms
- Two double bedrooms



- Secluded rear garden
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£205,000





Leagrave Central

- GUIDE PRICE £275,000 - £295,000
- Large rear garden
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- Sought after location

£275,000

- Potential to develop (STPP)
- Downstairs shower room
- Four piece family bathroom



Challney

- Generous plot
- Detached bungalow
- Kitchen/Breakfast room
- Ample parking

£325,000

- Annexe
- Sun room
- Challney catchment
- Close To M1 Junction 11



Leagrave Central

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- Off road parking
- Good sized garden
- Three double bedrooms

£255,000

- Family bathroom
- Cul de sac



Limbury Mead

- Three Bedrooms
- Downstairs Cloakroom
- Driveway & Garage
- Conservatory

£310,000

- Limbury Mead
- Ideal for a growing family
- Close to local amenities
- Viewing highly recommended!





**STOPSLEY SALES**  
01582 280 818



**Putteridge**

**£310,000**

- Extended
- Semi detached
- Well presented
- Sought after location
- Cul-De-Sac Position
- Potential To Extend (stpp)
- Off road parking & garage
- Chain free



**St. Annes**

**OIEO £250,000**

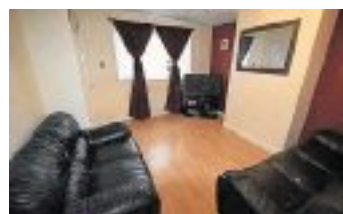
- 90ft rear garden
- Off road parking
- Recently installed double glazing throughout
- Refitted family bathroom
- Utility room
- Plans already submitted for further development



**Stopsley**

**£330,000**

- Three Bedrooms
- Detached Bungalow
- Spacious Accommodation
- En Suite To Master Bedroom
- Secluded Garden
- Stopsley Area
- Good Transport Links
- Must Be Viewed



**St. Annes**

**£230,000**

- Three Bedrooms
- Excellent Sized Family Home
- Realistically Priced
- Close To Town
- Close To The Station
- Some TLC Required
- Gas To Radiator Heating
- Great BTL Investment





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- Within Walking Distance to Leagrave Train Station

**Bushmead** **PCM £650**

- Sought after Location
- The Property Benefits from Living Room, Separate Kitchen, Shower Room and Central Heating
- The Price Per Month Included all Bills

**South Luton** **PCM £700**

- Stunning Apartment Offers Great Living Space
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**Town Centre** **PCM 775**

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- Private Rear Garden

**Barton Le Clay** **PCM £800**

- Very Large Three Bed Apartment
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- Close to Local Amenities

**Butely Road** **PCM £1,100**

- A Stunning Family Home To Let Now
- Large Open Plan Living/Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen
- 3 Generous Bedrooms With Two Fitted Wardrobes
- Gas Central Heating, Parking and Private Rear Garden



\*Terms and condition apply

**South Luton** **PCM £1,100**

- Available to Let Now This Very Large Three Bedroom House
- The Property Benefits from, Lounge, Dining Room and Fitted Kitchen.
- Located in South Luton with Lots of Local Amenities and Great Transport Links.

**Close To Town Centre** **PCM £1,000**

- Lovely Three Bedroom House
- Lounge, Dining Room & Kitchen
- Bathroom & Private Rear Garden
- Walking Distance To Luton Town Centre

**Close To Leagrave Station** **PCM £1,000**

- A Very Large Two Bedroom Detached Bungalow
- Located Within Easy Walking Distance To The Leagrave Train Station
- The Property Benefits From 2 Double Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazed Windows, Great Garden, Ample Parking and Garage.

**Stopsley** **PCM £1,200**

- Available To Let is This Stunning 3 Bedroom Family Home
- The Property Benefits from a Large Open Plan to Living/Dining room
- Located in a quiet close on the outskirts of Luton with excellent local amenities and transport links.

**Close To Town Centre** **PCM £650**

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- Close to Town Centre and Luton Station
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- Open Plan Living Space

**Close To Town Centre** **PCM £835**

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- Two Generous Bedrooms & Bathroom
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**SOLD**

**South Luton** **£260,000**

- Fabulous Four Bedroom Property
- Open Plan Lounge/Dining Room & Kitchen/Breakfast Room
- Utility Area, Bathroom & Separate Shower Room
- Lovely Garden With Decking & Lawn



**Town Centre** **£145,000**

- Fantastic One Bedroom Apartment
- Walking Distance From Luton Train Station / Town Centre
- Buy To Let Potential £750pcm
- Generous Bedroom and Open Plan Kitchen/Living Area



**Round Green** **£255,000**

- Well Presented Three Bedroom House
- Lounge, Dining Room & Fitted Kitchen
- Bathroom & Private Rear Garden
- Buy To Let Potential £1100pcm



**Round Green** **£310,000**

- Beautifully Extended House Offering Fabulous Space
- Cloakroom, Lounge, Dining Room & Conservatory
- 18ft Kitchen, 3 Generous Bedrooms & Lovely Bathroom
- Buy To Let Potential £1300pcm



**Leagrave**

**£146,500**

- A Spacious Two Bedroom Apartment
- 142 Year Lease Remaining
- Buy to Let Potential £775pcm



**Farley Hill**

**£270,000**

- Well Presented Three Bedroom House
- Lounge, Kitchen/Diner & WC
- Family Bathroom & Three Spacious Bedrooms
- Private Garden & On Drive Parking



**Ampthill** **£295,000**

- A Fabulous 3 Bedroom House Located In A Quiet Close
- The Property Benefits from a Newly Fitted Kitchen And A Large Lounge / Diner
- Private Garden and On Drive Parking for Two Cars



**Barton Road** **£445,000**

- Very Spacious Four Bedroom Bungalow
- Entrance Hall, Large Living Room & Stunning Conservatory
- Kitchen, Utility Area, 3 En Suites & Luxury Family Bathroom
- Private Garden & On Drive Parking for up to 5 Cars



**Off Dunstable Road** **£252,500**

- Well Presented House Offering Great Living Space
- Lounge, Dining Room, Large Kitchen & Utility Area
- Three Double Bedrooms & Family Bathroom
- Shower Room & Private Garden



**South Luton** **£130,000**

- A Well Presented One Bedroom House Which is Freehold
- Open Plan Kitchen/Lounge Area
- Easy Walking Distance to Town Centre
- Buy to Let Potential £600 PCM

**SALES**



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**Off Leagrave Rd £189,950**

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**L & D Borders**

**£269,950**

Extended Chalet Bungalow ideal for accommodating a family with an elderly or teenage relative. Ground floor annex with sitting room, bedroom and en-suite shower. Master Bedroom with en-suite W.C. family bathroom with Jacuzzi. Double aspect kit/breakfast room. Spacious lounge/diner. Ample level parking suitable for cars, caravan, boat etc.



**SOLD-MORE WANTED!**

**Stopsley**

**£275,000**

Modernised and decorated 3 bed terrace. MUST BE VIEWED! Refitted bathroom & kitchen/diner with soft close units & integrated appliances as stated. Complementary tiling. Gas c/h. uPVC double glaz. Garage at rear.



**SOLD-MORE WANTED!**

**Round Green £214,950**

Modernised redecorated cottage style terrace house Lounge/Diner with feature spiral staircase Over 10ft Kitchen with extensive range of cupboards & built in cooker 2 beds with Jack & Jill doors to the upstairs bathroom Natural Wood Flooring as stated Re-Tiled Roof User-Friendly Rear Garden

**CHAIN FREE!**



**South Luton**

**£269,950**

OPEN HOUSE 6PM TUESDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER AT 38 RUSSELL RISE. 3 BED SEMI. HALL. LOUNGE. MODERN KITCHEN AND UPSTAIRS BATHROOM. LOUNGE. SEPARATE DINING. BASEMENT. CHAIN FREE



**SOLD-MORE WANTED!**

**Saints Area**

**£234,950**

Modernised 2 double bedroom terrace house Hall Lounge Dining room Extended kitchen Galleried landing Upstairs bathroom Double glazing Gas c/h Large rear garden immediate vacant possession

**over 900yr lease!**



**Downs Rd £119,950**

Purpose-built 1 double bed flat in process of redecoration entrance hall spacious lounge separate kitchen bathroom double glazed residents' parking great investment potential over 900 yr lease remaining! approx. £700 p/a on s. charge

**LONG LEASE!**



**Biscot Mill**

**OFFERS INVITED!**

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**New instruction**



**SOLD-MORE WANTED!**

**Wigmore**

**£239,995**

2 Bed Semi ideal first purchase or excellent addition to any investment portfolio Hall Spacious open plan lounge with patio doors to the landscaped rear garden Modern kitchen with integrated fridge/freezer, hob and oven Gas C/H Georgian Style uPVC Double Glazing Space for a garage (s.i.p.p.) Further forecourt parking space and drive.

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Barton Road, Luton, **£549,995**

**\*\*\*OPEN DAY 3rd December 2016\*\*\*. CALL HARRISON MURRAY FOR YOUR VIEWING APPOINTMENT\*\*\***

This spacious 1930's family home is offered for sale and in brief this substantial property comprises, large entrance hallway, leading to the living room, there is a separate dining room with feature bay window to the front of the property. The fitted kitchen has a range of base and eye level units and currently has a dual fuel cooker. To the first floor there are three bedrooms, two doubles and a single as well as a family bathroom with WC, wash hand basin and over bath shower. Externally the property has mature gardens both to the front and rear offering privacy to both aspects. The driveway offers parking for approx. 6/7 cars with a turning circle. In the rear garden there is a shed, outhouse with plumbing for washing machine and garden toilet. There is also a UPVC built summer house, formerly a greenhouse. The property is ideal for future development due to the size of the plot, subject of course to the usual planning consents. THE PROPERTY IS OFFERED WITH NO UPPER CHAIN



Calcutt Close, Dunstable **£320,000**

This extended well presented semi detached property is offered to the market, in brief the property comprises spacious entrance hall. There is a newly added downstairs cloakroom with WC, wash hand basin and shower. The property has a large L shaped sitting room/ dining room which leads into a large conservatory. There is a fitted kitchen with a good range of base and eye level units, the property has been extended and now has an additional reception room/study/4th bedroom. To the first floor there are three very good size bedrooms, 2 doubles and a single and a fully tiled bathroom with over bath shower. The property has Gas Central Heating supported by a new boiler (installed less than 1 year ago) the property is also fully double glazed. Outside the property has both front and rear gardens mostly laid to lawn with mature shrubs and trees. There is driveway parking for approximately 3 vehicles. This property has potential to be further extended. THE PROPERTY IS OFFERED WITH NO UPPER CHAIN



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**Closing Date: 30th November 2016**  
**Interview Date: w/c 5th December 2016**

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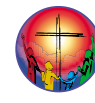
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**For an application pack and further details please email**  
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**Closing date for applications is: 25 November 2016**

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[Ken.Ward@dplusm.co.uk](mailto:Ken.Ward@dplusm.co.uk)

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**For further details and an application form please contact**  
**Mrs L. Brown at the school address, telephone 01582 661158 or**  
**email [lbrown@prioryacademy.co.uk](mailto:lbrown@prioryacademy.co.uk)**

**Closing Date: 28th November 2016**  
**Interview Date: TBC**

Priory Academy is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff to share this commitment. An enhanced DBS check is required for all successful applicants.



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## Luton Council Jobs

### CRAWLEY GREEN & WENLOCK PRE-SCHOOL

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### Pre-School Assistant (Maternity Cover)

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You will be a key person with up to 12 children. The hours will be 7.45am-5.15pm Monday - Friday, Term time only.

Should you wish to apply for this vacancy and are reliable, able to use your initiative and work as part of a team, please download an application form from the documents section of our website.

For further details and an application form please contact Kirstie or Vernessa at the preschool address, telephone 01582 727652 or email [crawleygreen@btinternet.com](mailto:crawleygreen@btinternet.com) or visit [www.crawleygreenandwenlock.btck.co.uk](http://www.crawleygreenandwenlock.btck.co.uk) to download a form.

Closing Date: 2nd December 2016

Interview Date: W/c 5th December 2016 (evenings)

### DOWNSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Chaul End Lane, Luton LU4 8EZ

### Facilities and Resources Manager

**£29,854 - £32,164 p.a.** Vacancy ID: 105800  
**Full-time**

We have an exciting opportunity for a Facilities and Resources Manager at our school. The successful candidate will be responsible for the school building, facilities and health and safety; including liaising with all external providers and the Site team to ensure the school premises is well managed and facilities closely monitored.

### Cook

**£11,053 - £11,715 p.a. plus living wage supplement** Vacancy ID: 105788  
**30 hours per week, term-time plus 5 training days**

We have a vacancy for a Cook to work in our busy school kitchen creating fresh, healthy school dinners for our pupils. The role involves supporting the school's Kitchen Manager and Senior Cook to prepare and serve up to 700 meals a day.

Applicants should have some experience of catering.

CVs will not be accepted for any posts based in schools.

Luton Borough Council is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff to share this commitment. Applicants must be willing to undergo child protection screening appropriate to the post, including checks with past employers and the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).



We value equality because quality services need the best people - from the whole community.



[www.luton.gov.uk/jobs](http://www.luton.gov.uk/jobs)

**Luton**

### SEN Teaching Assistant (1)

**£10,131 - £10,739 p.a. plus living wage supplement** Vacancy ID: 105786  
**2 x 1 year fixed term contract from January 2017 - January 2018**  
**27.5 hours per week**

We need two Teaching Assistants to work with some of our Special Needs children in our school. The successful candidate will support up to 6 individual children, in a range of different year groups and lessons.

We can offer candidates high quality training, a supportive team and children who love learning.

### Teaching Assistant (1)

**£10,131 - £10,739 p.a. plus living wage supplement** Vacancy ID: 105785  
**27.5 hours per week**

We need one Teaching assistant to join our Key Stage 2 team. Teaching Assistants are based in class to support the teaching and learning in the classroom. We can offer candidates high quality training, a supportive team and children who love learning.

For further details and an application form please send a Large SAE to Mrs D. Standard, Downside Primary School, Chaul End Lane, Luton, LU4 8EZ or collect one from the school office.

Closing Date (For all roles): 5th December 2016, 12 noon  
 Interview Date (For all roles): TBC

### RAMRIDGE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Turners Road North, Luton, Bedfordshire LU2 9AH

### Teaching Assistant (2)

**£12,673 - £13,700 p.a.** Vacancy ID: 105791  
**32.5 hours per week, term-time only**

Ramridge Primary School is a Values based school which has a positive and welcoming environment and was rated Good by Ofsted in its last inspection (2013). We are situated in the east of Luton close to a range of good transport links.

Due to restructuring we are looking to recruit a Teaching Assistant to start as soon as possible. The hours will be 8.45am - 3.45pm Mon - Fri, supporting the class teacher within the classroom in either KS1 or KS2, working with a wide range of pupils across the curriculum.

Can you answer 'yes' to these questions?:

Have an NVQ2 or equivalent?

Have good literacy and numeracy skills?

Have a patient and caring attitude?

Have high expectations?

Work well in a team?

Have an enthusiastic, flexible and hard working approach?

Are you pro-active and able to work on your own initiative?

If you are, you might just be the person we need at Ramridge Primary School.

This role will include lunch time duties or activities and there might also be the possibility of additional hours to assist with after school clubs. You will also be required to attend occasional training days.

Visits to the school are welcomed and encouraged.

If you are interested in the post, please apply online at [www.luton.co.uk/jobs](http://www.luton.co.uk/jobs)

Closing Date: 30th November 2016

Interview Date: w/c 12th December 2016

## Educational Vacancies



Redborne Upper School and Community College  
 Flitwick Road, Ampthill, Bedfordshire MK45 2NU

Telephone: 01525 404462

NOR: 1,400 (400 Sixth Form) 13 - 18 Mixed Comprehensive

### PE TEACHER

(Maternity Leave Cover)

Required for January, 2017

A PE Teacher is required for January, 2017 to cover a maternity leave. The successful candidate will be well qualified, keen and enthusiastic and will join a team of dedicated teachers.

We are seeking to appoint a candidate who has the ability to offer PE to GCSE standard and/or Cambridge Nationals in Sport to level 2. Applications are welcome from NQTs or teachers seeking a main scale post but a TLR may be available for an experienced teacher who is able to take on a post of responsibility.

Please telephone Lou Ellis (Principal's P.A.) at the school for further details and an application form; this information is also on our website [www.redborne.com](http://www.redborne.com)

The successful applicant will be required to undertake a Disclosure and Barring check.

All offers of employment are "conditional" until Disclosure and Barring and qualification checks have been successfully completed and satisfactory references have been received.

Redborne is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

**Closing Date: Wednesday 30th November, 2016 at noon**

Redborne is a successful school that achieves excellent examination results with over 80% of students typically gaining Maths and English at grades A\* - C. 'A' Level results are also very good with over 59% at 'A', 'A' or 'B' grades and an overall pass rate of 99.9%. About 80% of the Sixth Form go on to university and each year a number of students get into Oxbridge; this has totalled 13 in the last 3 years. The school is well regarded and popular, situated in a very pleasant area of Central Bedfordshire, within easy reach of London. The school's most recent OFSTED report was excellent and we were graded as "outstanding". Redborne is also a National College Support School and a Leading Edge School.



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28½ hpw, term time only  
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Ref: 16-17/HRA/004

Closing date: Noon  
 on 30th November 2016.



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Do you enjoy working with older people or vulnerable adults and can make a positive difference to people's lives, then we want to hear from you.

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**Tel: 07746 851331**

### WANTED

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**Tel: 01933 271837 or 07594 418531**

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## For the Family

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Trade: 01582 700800

### Bags, Briefcases & Luggage

**LADIES** briefcase, satchel style, Chiltern via Moda brown/black leather, immaculate condition. £20 07870 456261

**FOLDING** carrier case for suits. Constellation, faux leather look, tan colour, as new. £10 07870 456261

**FOLDING** carrier case for suits. Constellation, faux leather—look, tan colour. £10 07870 456261

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**BEANO/DANDY** annuals, plus Whizzer & Chips, Topper, Beazer annuals. 16 in total. £7.50 07870 456261

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**in print, online and mobile**

### Toys & Games

**MINI** Desktop Pool game Mini Desktop Pool game. Brand new, still in box. £5.00 01582 526034

**QUESTION** of SPORT soccer trivia board game. Circa 1995. £10 07870 456261

**SWINGBALL** garden game. £5 07870 456261

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### Cats

**CAT** BASKET, wicker. £10 07870 456261

### Dogs

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Cream and white very pretty boy £450

**£350**  
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**JOHN** Lewis New 3ft Mattress Recently purchased this guest bed mattress at £100 and never used. Coil spring type white colour. Could deliver. £45.00 07462 783903

**3 ft** Divan Bed Base Two very large drawers. Buyer to collect. £15.00 07462 783903

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**FREE** Two old computer towers and one magiccolour laser printer free for parts. £1.00 ovno 07961 415127 01582 503291

**COMPUTER** study/workstation desk. Pine colour, £10 07870 456261

**PAGE** 56 Modern. Cables, cd—rom, instructions. £5 07870 456261

### Games Consoles & Games

**NINTENDO** DSI Black with 3 games and accessories, including Power Ranger Samurai, Brain Training and Pokemon Black, 2 game cartridges that can hold 4 games each, a Lego game card holder, 2 extra stylus's, Pokemon pedometer and DSI charger. The DSI is in excellent condition, has own zipped case but no box. £35.00 ovno 01582 580510

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### Dining Furniture

**DINNER** service. 6 large & small plates, 6 bowls, glasses. Red colour. Good condition. £10 07870 456261

### Home Appliances

**EMBROIDERED** table cloth Unused Chinese hand embroidered table cloth and napkins. About 48 in x 48 in. Ideal Christmas present £10.00 ovno 07961 415127 01582 503291

**EMBROIDERED** table cloth Unused Chinese hand embroidered table cloth and napkins. About 48 in x 48 in. Ideal Christmas present £10.00 ovno 07961 415127 01582 503291

**FRUIT BOWL & DISHES** China decorated round fruit bowl with five matching round smaller bowls. Suitable for buffet or barbecue use £6.00 ovno 07961 415127 01582 503291

**1960'S** Chinese Ginger Jar 1960's Chinese blue colour decorated ginger jar with lid. Collectors item £12.00 ovno 07961 415127 01582 503291

**VICTORIAN** Champagne Glasses Two Victorian cut glass hollow stem champagne glasses. Ideal for that special night! £11 ovno 07961 415127 01582 503291

**BOSCH** White dishwasher, all in vgc, could deliver, bargain £75.00 07846 373784

**UNDERCOUNTER** Fridge with freezer section, vgc, can deliver £45.00 07846 373784

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**CALLING** ALL LANDLORDS I'm looking to rent a 3, 4 or 5 bed house for up to 5 years using a company let. Would 60 months guaranteed rent & zero voids work for you? Please call me. Sarah £1 01908 314082 07738 278545

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**OIL** painting, Dunstable Downs Knolls. 23x17", framed. £35 07870 456261

**WATERCOLOUR.** Dunstable Crossroads circa 1963, framed, 31x27cm. £30 07870 456261

**XMAS** tree stand for real Xmas tree, metal. £7.50 07870 456261

**XMAS** tree, artificial. 6ft. £10 07870 456261

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**Kitchen Electrical Appliances****REPAIRS**

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**PINE** KITCHEN TABLE (48 x 33 inches) and 3 chairs, Excellent condition. £65 07870 456261

**Lighting**

**4X** 240V GU10 Fire Downlights 4x BNIP Aurora IP65 240V GU10 Fire Downlights — NEW, unused, in original boxes. AU DLM983 Recessed Aluminium downlights in polished Chrome. GU10 Bulbs included. Willing to sell separately for £10 each, however ideally looking to sell as a job lot of 4 for £30. £40 ono 01582 483371 07889 843890

**Lounge & Conservatory Furniture**

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model railway layout for sale unfinished project due to ill health size 120 cm x 180 cm it is screwed to the wall in garage with hinges so it can be tilted up for easy access it also splits in two for moving, loads of mixed tracks points with motors and switches.  
rolling stock Princess Elizabeth special edition loco in box and 3 carriages no box one Mallard loco in box. Smokey Joe in box and loco no 8751 six wheel loco in box.4 mixed trucks no box all used but in good running condition

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**BULLWORKER** Pair of retro fitness power exercisers. £7.50 each or for the pair £10 07870 456261

**Musical****YAMAHA B1 UPRIGHT PIANO EXC CONDITION**

Yamaha B1 Upright second hand piano for sale. Black.

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### Local Authority Notices

#### THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (TAXI PARKING PLACES) (EXPERIMENTAL) ORDER 2016

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Luton Borough Council, the highway authority for the said Borough made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as amended. The Order will come into force on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and will be in force for an experimental period of up to 18 months. The restrictions in the locations stated in this Experimental Traffic Regulation Order shall suspend and replace the restrictions in the locations stated in the existing on-street Traffic Regulation Order/s (and all amendments) and shall be enforceable and any infringement may be dealt with by the issue of a penalty charge. This experimental traffic regulation order will introduce parking places for Taxis (Hackney Carriages) as specified below. The reason for the experimental order is to trial the locations before deciding whether to make them permanent.

The Orders

- a. revoke existing restrictions and introduce taxi only parking places as specified in Schedule 1 below;
- b. revoke a length of waiting restriction and introduce shared use parking bay as specified in Schedule 2 below;

#### SCHEDULE 1 – Revoke existing restrictions and introduce a Taxi only parking bay

Road.	Affected length.
George Street	Odd numbered side a 12 metres long bay situated outside No 83 George Street
Park Street	Even numbered side a 3 metre length of redundant drop kerb outside Barn Court that lead to off street access Even numbered side from a point 15 metres north of its junction with Cumberland Street to a point opposite the side wall of No 54 Park Street
Station Road	Station side the whole drop off area outside the main station entrance
Toddington Road	Even numbered side - the initial 12 metres of the parking bay opposite 13-19 Toddington Road.

#### SCHEDULE 2

#### Revoke length of waiting restrictions and introduce Pay and display shared use parking bay

Road.	Affected length.
Toddington Road	Even numbered side - from a point 14 metres west of a point opposite the boundary between Nos 31/33 Toddington Road westwards for a distance of 12 metres.

Any person wishing to make representations whether to object or support the Order before they are made permanent must do so in writing quoting the reference (TRO/EXPERIMENTAL/P1947) specifying the grounds on which they are made within 6 months of the Experimental Order coming into force or if the Order is subsequently varied or modified within 6 months of the variation or modification coming into force to the Traffic Regulation Order Team, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Town Hall, Luton, LU1 2BQ or email HighwayTRO@luton.gov.uk

ELW

Highway Services Manager  
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

#### THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (WEXHAM CLOSE) (TEMPORARY FOOTPATH CLOSURE) (No.3) ORDER 2016

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 (as amended).

The Order will come into operation 21<sup>st</sup> November 2016 and cease operation after a period of 6 months or when the proposed works have been completed, whichever is the earlier.

The effect of the Order will allow the Council to close to pedestrians the footpath and length of footpath in the Schedule below. The Order is intended to create a window for the works to be done and it is anticipated that the works will be completed over a period within the dates described in the Schedule below unless such works are delayed due to unforeseen circumstances.

The purpose of the Order is to carry out gas connection works.

Access will be maintained as best as possible to properties where this may be done safely whilst such works are being carried out and diversions for pedestrians will be marked by signs.

Highway Services Manager  
Town Hall Luton  
LU1 2BQ

FOOTPATH.	LENGTH OF FOOTPATH.	DATES.
Wexham Close.	Footpath outside of No's 48-49 Wexham Close.	21st November 2016 – 23rd November 2016.

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### Local Authority Notices

#### Maidenhill Primary School

Notice is given in accordance with section 19(1) of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 that Luton Borough Council intends to make a prescribed alteration to Maidenhill Primary School, Newark Road, Luton, LU4 8LD from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017.

It is proposed to enlarge the School by adding additional accommodation.

The current capacity of the School is 720 and the proposed capacity will be 840. The enlargement builds on a previous increase in capacity (capacity was formerly 630). The current number of pupils registered at the School is 684. The current admissions number for the school is 120 for Years R, 1 and 4 and 90 for all other year groups. The proposed enlargement of the school premises will ensure that the School can continue to accommodate 120 pupils at the Reception Year intake point from September 2017.

This Notice is an extract from the complete proposal. Copies of the complete proposal can be obtained from Elizabeth Fleming by telephoning 548041 or by writing to the Planning & Admissions Team, People Directorate, Town Hall, Luton LU1 2BQ. Alternatively, the complete proposal can be viewed at: www.luton.gov.uk/currentconsultations

Within four weeks from the date of publication of these proposals, any person may object to, or make comments on, the proposal by sending them to Mrs Elizabeth Fleming, Planning & Admissions Officer, People Directorate, Town Hall, Luton LU1 2BQ.

Signed: Sally Rowe – Corporate Director, People Directorate

Publication Date: 20 November 2016

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## Local Authority Notices

## THE BOROUGH OF LUTON (GOOSEBERRY HILL) (TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT) (EXPERIMENTAL PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) ORDER 2016

**NOTICE** is hereby given that on the 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016 Luton Borough Council, the Highway Authority for the said Borough, made the above Order under the relevant provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 ("the Act") (as amended). The Traffic Management Act 2004 and all other enabling powers and in consultation with the Chief Officer of the Police in accordance with schedule 9 to the Act.

The general effect of the Order will be to introduce an experimental prohibition of driving on Gooseberry Hill as detailed in the Schedule.

## SCHEDULE

Road	Section
Gooseberry Hill	At its junction with Grasmere Road

The Order will come into force on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016 and will be in force for an experimental period of up to 18 months. The reason for proceeding by way of an experimental Order is to assess the effects of the new restrictions for a trial period before consideration is given to whether the provisions of the experimental traffic order should be made permanent.

A copy of the Order, together with a plan showing the length of road affected and a Statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be inspected at the Town Hall, Luton. Please telephone Highway Services on 01582 546783 to arrange for an appointment to view.

The Order provides that in pursuance of section 10(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Highway Services Manager of the Borough Of Luton, or some other person authorised on that behalf by that officer may, if it appears to that officer or to that other person essential in the interests of the expeditious, convenient and safe movement of traffic, or in the provision of suitable or adequate parking facilities on the highway, or for preserving or improving the amenities of the area through which the road affected by this Order runs, modify or suspend this Order or any of its provisions save that no modification shall make an addition.

Any person wishing to make representations whether to object or support the Order before being made permanent must do so in writing quoting the reference (TRO/EXPERIMENTAL/P1908/) specifying the grounds on which they are made within 6 months of the Experimental Order coming into force or if the Order is subsequently varied or modified within 6 months of the variation or modification coming into force to the Traffic Regulation Order Team, 4th Floor, Town Hall, Luton, LU1 2BQ or email HighwayTRO@luton.gov.uk

20<sup>th</sup> November 2016Highway Services Manager  
Town Hall Luton LU1 2BQ

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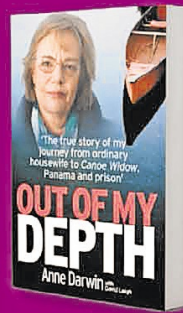


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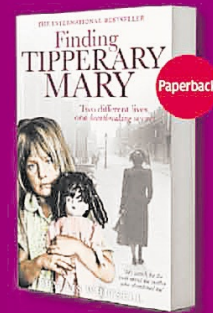
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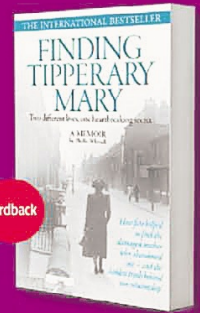
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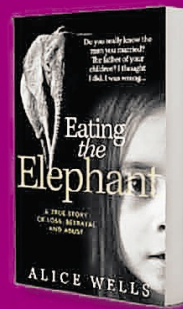
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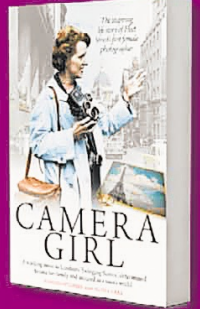
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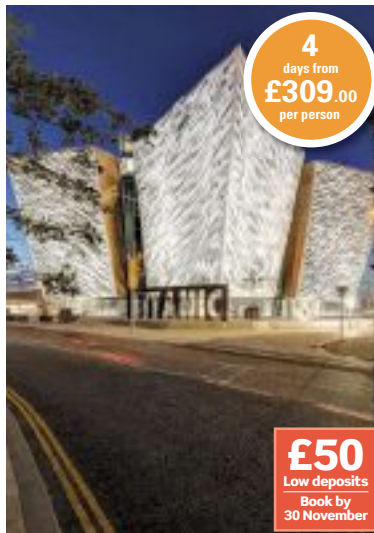
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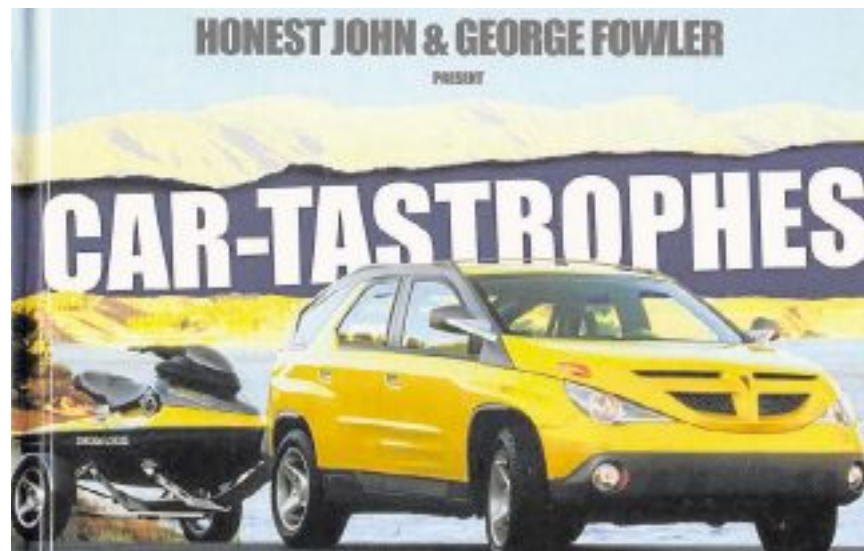
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# Book full of CAR-TASTROPHES

By: Ian Donaldson



If you're one of those people who spots a one star restaurant review in your Sunday paper and relishes the critical mauling that follows in print, here is the motoring book for you.

The words in 'CAR-TASTROPHES: 80 automotive atrocities from the past 20 years' are distilled from hundreds of cars driven in the last couple of decades by two men who should know a motoring lemon when they see one.

A car, taken at random from the book, like the odd looking Suzuki X90 and here dismissed as "a clown's car for people who wanted to drive around looking ridiculous".

Those words come from co-author Honest John, the man who answers questions about the reliability of your potential purchase each Saturday in a national newspaper and who also runs his own website, packed with facts and fact-backed opinions.

His fellow writer on this book project is George Fowler, motoring correspondent for The Daily Star and not a man short of opinions.

Take this, for instance, on a very expensive Italian saloon: "Cocks of crap don't get much bigger than the 2013 Maserati Ghibli, in every possible way".

Now, an Internet blogger might leave it at that and move on to insult something, or someone else, without

leaving a shred of evidence to support the verdict.

Not so George, who goes on to declare of this four-door glamour wagon: "It might have been mightily quick, but trying to drive it in a straight line was nigh-on impossible." He continues in the same, detailed, vein for many more words.

Some cars that take a beating from Honest John and George are sitting ducks in the pantheon of motoring mistakes, among them the hideous Pontiac Aztek, vastly expensive Maybach 62, styling disaster SsangYong Rodius and instantly forgettable MG Rover CityRover.

Other inclusions might surprise you more. Take the Volkswagen Golf Mk IV of 2009-2012. As Honest John admits: "Decent enough to drive," before adding the knockout blow, "but the list of problems kept mounting until the final catastrophe of the US Emissions Defeat software that proved they'd been lying all along." Ouch.

Each entry wins a flat tyre rating with the worst collecting a shameful five - like a car you've (luckily) never heard of, the Mitsuoaka Galue II.

One you will have heard of, the Kia Rio of 2001-2005 is another five star disaster, but Honest John is fair enough to say the current Rio "out-styles the Fiesta".

So, a book full of vented anger at the way some cars were foisted on an unsuspecting public but honest enough to acknowledge that things can get better.

CAR-TASTROPHE is published by Veloce at £9.99.

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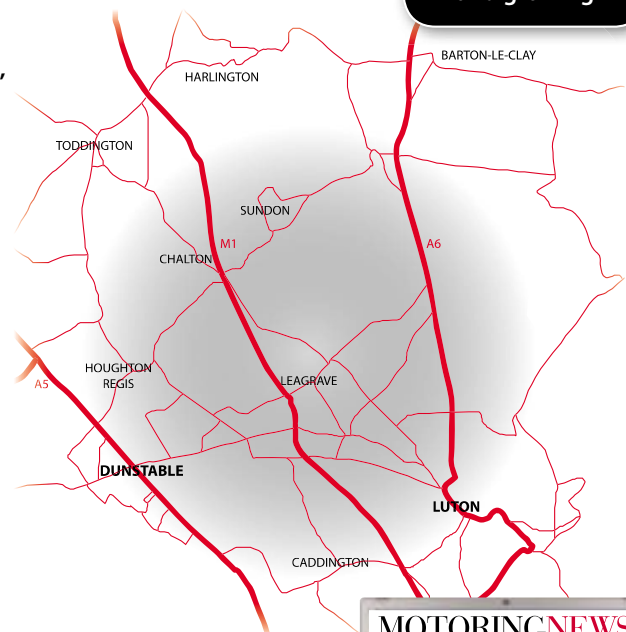
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## SEAT Ateca SE 1.4 EcoTSI

By: Enda Mullen

SEAT's designers must have been chomping at the bit to deliver a Crossover - given the seemingly unstoppable demand for scaled-down SUVs in all their shapes and forms.

There's no doubting the Spanish car maker is a seriously late entrant to this particular party, pretty much everyone's in on the act now, but the Ateca should see it make up for lost time.

It might share a fair bit in common with its Volkswagen group stablemate the Tiguan, both are based on VW's MQB platform, but despite that the Ateca has more than enough about it to set it apart.

For starters it's got a profile that's both pleasing and distinctive. It manages to fuse elements of a traditional boxy SUV design blueprint with flourishes Seat's familiar sporty styling flair to great effect.

There are certainly elements of the latest Leon to be seen and given that's widely acknowledged to be a great looker that's undoubtedly a good thing.

The result is a vehicle that certainly looks appealing but lacks none of the practicality one demands from a family crossover.

Step inside and the cabin is instantly appealing, arguably even perfectly proportioned. It's ideally suited to the needs of a family.

It's also a very easy place to feel at home in with a comfortable kind of feel overall.

Quality is certainly to the fore too, even if the Ateca does fall slightly short of Volkswagen levels of interior refinement.

To be fair though it still has a premium kind of feel and while the predominantly black matt dashboard is plain in some respects there's very little that's wrong with it.

Given the Ateca is slightly shorter than the Tiguan it's surprisingly roomy throughout and also has a large 510-litre boot that trumps rivals like the Nissan Qashqai.

In terms of engines there's a tempting array of diesels and petrols. The cheapest Ateca can be had for a tad under £18,000 with the three-cylinder 1.0-litre petrol engine that's available - a fine example of the latest generation of small engines with a big attitude.

As far as diesels go there are 1.6-litre (113bhp) and 2.0-litre units, with the 2.0 TDI available in either 148bhp or 187bhp guise.

While one might imagine most buyers are likely to go down the diesel route the 1.4-litre TSI petrol fitted to

this car makes for a very realistic alternative real world alternative.

Smooth, refined and potent, it packed a performance punch that was pleasantly reassuring and is economical too.

It's frugality is boosted by the ability to shut down two of its four cylinders and operate via the remaining two when it's able to. Very clever indeed.

In line with the general crossover trend for vehicles designed for on rather than off-road progress most Atecas are front-wheel drive, other than the 2.0-litre diesels, which have a four-wheel drive option.

I covered quite a few miles in this car, heading from the Midlands down to the south coast and back over a few days and was impressed by its comfort over long journeys and the fact it was a consummate motorway cruiser.

Mind you, there wasn't much cruising on the return leg when a three-and-a-half hour journey turned into a five-and-a-half hour one. That said my teenage passengers never complained once, despite the fact we didn't even stop - which said a lot about the Ateca to me.

As far as trim levels go there's 1st Edition, S, SE, SE Technology and Xcellence variants to choose from. This mid-range SE model certainly came with enough bells and whistles to impress.

Key among them is the Media System Plus set-up, which means it gets a larger and extremely user-friendly eight-inch colour touchscreen compared to the standard five-inch one. It also comes with voice control, Bluetooth audio streaming and eight speakers.

While crossovers aren't necessarily renowned for their driving dynamics the Ateca delivers impressive car-like handling and it proved a real pleasure to drive on the winding roads of the picturesque South Downs.

All in all I think the Ateca should prove a winner for SEAT - I have to confess liked it a lot.

### FAST FACTS

**SEAT Ateca SE 1.4 EcoTSI**

**Price:** £21,015

**Mechanical:** 148bhp, 1,395cc, 4cyl petrol engine driving front wheels via 6-speed manual gearbox

**Max speed:** 125mph

**0-62mph:** 8.5 seconds

**Combined mpg:** 53.3

**Insurance group:** 14

**CO2 emissions:** 122g/km

**BiK rating:** 21%

**Warranty:** 3yrs/60,000 miles

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## BEETLE FAN BARRY'S CHILDHOOD REVISITED BY: MIKE TORPEY



VOLKSWAGEN has launched a major social media activity using the #YourVW tag, celebrating Britons' love for, and memories of, the German brand and its cars. On the back of an appeal for recollections via Facebook and Twitter, Volkswagen UK's social media team received more than 1,700 responses from car fans nationwide. And among them was the tale of Manchester pub-restaurant manager Barry Openshaw, who shared his reminiscences of his dad's Volkswagen Beetle 1300 from the 1970s. Barry, 43, said: "My dad, Ron, bought the Beetle back in 1973. It was a unique colour because it was gold! It felt quite special. "He used to take me to Southport, sit me on his lap and I used to steer the car – just up the beach. We did a lot together. "My oldest brother, Keith, courted his wife in that car. He got married and moved to Canada, it's got to be over 30 years ago. There's just something about it that takes me back to my childhood."

Stirred by his recollections, Volkswagen decided to reunite Barry with the beloved Beetle and set about tracing it.

While the actual car was unavailable, VW did manage to source an identical model which was painstakingly re-sprayed and restored.

Barry's brother Keith was flown over from Canada to present him with the classic Beetle, on the beach where he drove it on his dad's lap all those years ago.

Speaking after the emotional handover, Barry said: "I feel humbled to have this Beetle. It's absolutely gorgeous, and it looks like new! It really takes me back to my time as a kid in the 70s."

Volkswagen communications chief Thomas Brady said: "We were overwhelmed with the response to our initial request for memories of Volkswagen and, after we'd reviewed all the posts, Barry's story really stood out."

"It was incredible to see his reaction when we presented him with the 1970s Beetle, and well worth all the hard work in sourcing and restoring the car."

A video telling Barry's emotional story has been created, and Barry now plans to keep the car – continuing its restoration and showing it at classic car events as often as he can.

To view Barry's Volkswagen Beetle story visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CX16mmx3nNs>

## RENAULT'S ALL-NEW SCENIC ON SALE SOON

BY: STEWART SMITH

RENAULT'S fourth-generation Scenic range hits UK roads in December with new safety features and technologies usually associated with the segment above.

The Scenic gets a new look with a C-shaped front lighting array and 20-inch wheels and Renault claims it is the only vehicle in the class to come with active emergency braking system with pedestrian detection as standard. The five-seat Scenic and seven-seat Grand Scenic range has a starting price from £21,445. Both the Scenic and Grand Scenic come in four trim levels - Expression+, Dynamique Nav, Dynamique S Nav and Signature Nav. The Expression+ entry level Scenic comes with an upgraded level of kit, including lane departure warning, traffic sign recognition and automatic high/low beam headlights. Also standard on the new Scenic are electronic parking brake, LED daytime running lights, automatic dual-zone climate control, automatic headlights and windscreen wipers, electrically adjustable heated and folding door mirrors, leather steering wheel, 4 x 20W DAB radio with fingertip controls with Bluetooth connectivity and a seven-inch touchscreen.

Cruise control, speed limiter, a two-way adjustable steering column, height adjustable driver seat, gear-shift indicator and a 12-volt front socket are also standard for Expression+ trim level.

At launch there will be a choice of five engines – two Energy TCe turbocharged petrol options with power outputs of 1.2-litre/115bhp and 1.2-litre/130bhp. The turbodiesel alternatives are a 1.5-litre dCi 110bhp unit, a 1.6-litre dCi



130bhp engine or a 1.5-litre dCi 160bhp. Renault says the new Scenic range will have emissions as low as 100g/km and 72.4mpg for the dCi 110 model.

The Scenic has always offered plenty of space and it remains as practical as ever with class-leading storage and boot space. The five-seat Scenic has a best-in-class boot volume of 572-litres with all seats in the upright position and the seven-seat Grand Scenic has a boot volume of 596-litres with the rearmost two seats down.

More storage space comes with underfloor compartments extending total storage capacity by 57-litres.

Renault has also announced that from spring next year the new Scenics will be offered with the company's hybrid assist engine electrification technology which will be available with the model's dCi 110bhp diesel unit with a six-speed manual gearbox. The hybrid set up takes CO2 emissions down to 92g/km which equates to 80.7mpg.

## NISSAN LEAF IN THE BLACK BY: STEWART SMITH



headlamps, illuminated entry guards, privacy glass, black door mirror caps and black rear roof spoiler. Blue-stitched mats give the interior a premium finish.

It also comes with the version of the advanced NissanConnect EV telematics system and its innovative around view monitor technology as standard.

Gareth Dunsmore, director of electric vehicles at Nissan Europe, said: "The Nissan LEAF Black Edition offers our customers stylish, premium design in an affordable mass-market 100 per cent electric vehicle. We are committed to delivering innovation that excites and this vehicle does just that."

Launched in 2010, the Nissan LEAF was the first mass-market electric vehicle. The latest 30kWh version gives drivers up to 155 miles.

Since the Nissan LEAF first went on sale in 2010, almost 240,000 units have been sold globally, with 64,000 of these on Europe's roads; making it the world's best-selling electric vehicle.

The special edition will be on sale from March 2017 until August and prices have yet to be announced.

NISSAN is one of the car manufacturers who are leading the drive for electric powered motors and its Leaf model is one of the biggest sellers.

Now it has unveiled a special version named Leaf Black for sale in Europe with the first 1,000 customers being given a free Wi-Fi hotspot capable of powering up to eight devices.

The Leaf Black in based on Nissan's existing Acenta grade, and comes with stylish exterior additions include 16-in black alloy wheels, LED

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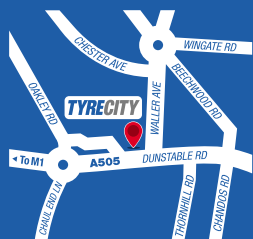
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## RENAULT ZOE WINS TOP ECO AWARD

BY: STEWART SMITH

THE Renault Zoe has scooped a top award by becoming the pick of the best environmentally friendly motors in the annual Green Organisation's accolades.

The Zoe won the Green Apple's Pure Electric and Hybrid Cars category and it's the second time the all-electric Zoe has succeeded.

Marks were awarded by the judges for the way a car drives and behaves in the real world, away from the testing laboratory.

Renault estimates that the Zoe, recently unveiled with an uprated battery to provide up to 250 mile range, the longest of any mainstream electric car has a real-world range of between 186 miles in temperate conditions and 124 miles in extreme cold conditions.

Paul Flanagan, Group Renault managing director, said: "The Renault Zoe is stylish, affordable and practical and is perfect for those who are looking to downsize their carbon footprint.

The Zoe has been selling strongly in the UK with 1,482 sold in the first three-quarters of 2016 – a 33 per cent increase on the same period of 2015 – continuing the trend set in Europe where Renault was the best-selling electric vehicle manufacturer in 2015. Purchases of Zoe represents one in six electric vehicles sold in the UK.

The Green Organisation, based in Northamptonshire, was established in 1994 as an international, independent, non-profit, non-political, non-activist environment group, dedicated to recognising, rewarding and promoting environmental best practice around the world and invites entries from all parts of industry for its annual Green Apple Awards which are judged by members of the Midland Group of Motoring Writers.



## VOLVO CELEBRATES SCOTTISH SUCCESS By: Mike Torpey



VOLVO'S sleek new V90 has been crowned 2016 Scottish Car of the Year, seeing off opposition from a dozen top rivals to take the title.

The Swedish marque's success follows on from last year when the XC90 won the awards' SUV section.

Association of Scottish Motoring Writers president Stephen Park said: "The judging process this year was difficult due to high standards across all

market segments.

"However one car – which was a clear winner in its category – just managed to edge ahead of its opponents to take the top title

"Be in no doubt, the Volvo V90 is an exceptional machine and one which reshapes the estate car marketplace.

"Members of the ASMW were impressed by the way it marries traditional Volvo family values with a head-turning sense of style, advanced

technology, safety, driving dynamics and one of the best cabin environments of any car at any price."

The SCOTY awards also delivered impressive results for Audi, Ford, Jaguar and Renault, with all four marques scooping double category wins courtesy of the A4 and R8 for Audi, Mustang and Focus RS (Ford), Megane and Kadjar (Renault) and XF and F-PACE for Jaguar

## MG LAUNCHES FREE WINTER CAR CHECK

BY: MIKE TORPEY

MG Motor UK has launched a complimentary vehicle health check programme across its national dealer network to help ensure customers' cars are ready for the colder weather.

The 16-point visual inspection, available via any MG authorised repairer, will review key vehicle components - from clutch and brake feel to driveshaft operation, battery condition and exposed belt use.

Fluid levels – including engine oil –

will also be checked, alongside the wear of windscreen wipers, tyre tread and suspension.

Qualified technicians will also analyse the exhaust and steering system, test seat belt clasps and ensure all lights are fully functioning.

Following the inspection, drivers will be provided with a report outlining any essential servicing and repair work that needs to be undertaken.



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2009 (09) VW BEETLE 1.6 LUNA CONVERTIBLE 2 DOOR Yellow, black electric hood, AIR CONDITIONING, 6 spoke polished alloys, remote central locking, body transfers flowers, electric tinted windows, electric mirrors, front fog lamps, ABS airbags, Rear lamp eye covers, rear lamp flower covers, CD player, 2 owners, 59,000 miles, service history ..... £5,995

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2011 (11) INSIGNIA 2.0 SRI 160 5 DOOR HATCH DIESEL sea grey, AIR CONDITIONING, alloys, electric tinted windows, remote central locking, 6 speed gearbox, cruise control, multi functional steering wheel, rain sensitive wipers, front and rear parking sensors, auto headlights, rain sensitive wipers, traction control, cruise control, MP3 socket, ABS, airbags, CD player, 49,000 miles, full service history ..... £7,995

2011 (61) INSIGNIA 2.0 160 SRI CDTi DIESEL 5 door hatch, panther black, satellite navigation, 10 spoke alloys, sports trim, 6 speed gearbox, multi functional steering wheel, front fog lamps, electric mirrors, AIR CONDITIONING, remote central locking, electric tinted windows, auto headlight, rain sensitive wipers, traction control, cruise control, MP3 socket, ABS, airbags, CD player, 62,000 miles, 2 former keepers, full service history ..... £7,495

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2009 (09) ZAFIRA 1.6 16V VVTi Active 5 door 7 Seater MPV, panacota silver metallic, AIR CONDITIONING, remote central locking, electric tinted windows, electric mirrors, MP3 socket, ABS, airbags, CD player, demo + 1 lady owner, 62,000 miles, service history ..... £4,995

2012 (62) ASTRA 1.4 16V SRI 5 doors, sports hatch, panther black metallic, AIR CONDITIONING, alloys, rear parking, sensors, front fog lamps, cruise control, multi functional steering wheel, electric tinted windows, remote central locking, electric mirrors on board computer, traction control, MP3 socket, CD player, 1 lady owner, 30,000 miles, full service history ..... £7,495

2010 (10) ASTRA 1.6 16V VVTi SRI (NEW SHAPE) 5 door, sports hatch, star silver metallic, AIR CONDITIONING, alloys, remote central locking, cruise control, electric mirrors and electric tinted windows, multi functional steering wheel, front fog lamps, MP3 socket, traction control, ABS, airbags, 2 owners, 36,000 miles, Vauxhall service history ..... £5,995

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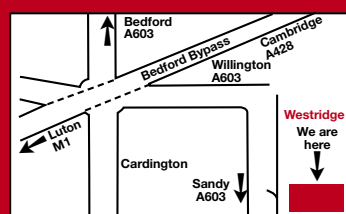
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# Sport on sunday

## So what if Rooney had a few during time to himself?

WE the public seem to enjoy tutting at footballers doing things many normal people do every week.

Seemingly, this now includes having a few drinks on a Saturday night, given the over-the-top reaction to Wayne Rooney doing just that at a wedding reception at the Grove Hotel, near Watford, last week.

The big issue for many was that here was the England captain daring to relax while on international duty, an experience that has been likened to being in jail by some players due to the monotony of it.

Rather than look at the circumstances – Rooney was doing this in the knowledge



that his next game was seven days away – we've had to put up with the predictable knee-jerk outcries of the easily-offended.

Rooney has since apologised both in public and privately to England manager-in-waiting Gareth Southgate and he was right to do so.

Looking through all the hysteria, getting photographed

looking worse for wear in his training gear was not a wise move on his part and he is supposed to be setting an example, after all.

But among the more ridiculous reactions to this were the demands that he should be stripped of the England captaincy because of this.

The last time the FA felt the need to do this was with John Terry in 2012. When you compare the two offences – racially abusing an opponent and having a few too many – you'll see how ridiculous the calls for his head are.

I was most disappointed that some journalists were among those making that call, slightly hypocritical when you consider many of us



**FIRING LINE:** Pictures of Wayne Rooney looking worse for wear have only added fuel to his critics

enjoy 'refreshing ourselves' from time to time.

This is where the coverage has gone back towards being a witch-hunt of one of the most talented English players of modern times.

Granted, Rooney's best days look to be behind him and he's undergoing a difficult season in which Jose Mourinho had no choice but to drop him given his lack of form with Manchester United.

The gloating, overtly joyous reaction to this was unedifying, however, as was the booing of their country's record scorer from a section of the Wembley crowd during England's game against Malta last month.

The mood of celebration only increased when Southgate left him out for the World Cup qualifier in Slovenia, although England's awful performance over there

hopefully brought the revelation that their struggles weren't all his fault.

There were actually signs of his form picking up before last week's indiscretion occurred, but this of course was quickly forgotten after some chancers decided to make a quick buck off selling a few drunken photos.

Yes, Rooney made a mistake, but who has he actually harmed? It's time to lay off.

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## Blown off the Park by Hampstead

**LATEST CRUSHING:** Stockwood Park found themselves a massive 40-0 down at half-time

### RUGBY UNION

STOCKWOOD Park continue to search for that elusive first win in the London leagues as they suffered a crushing 52-7 defeat on the road to second-placed Hampstead.

"Believe it or not, we're quite positive," said Park President Mark Lovell. "We gave debuts to Frank Daley and Charlie Bennett, and played a strong second half – they were 40-0 ahead at the start of the second half, we fought back well."

James Hankey scored Park's second-half try, converted by Jason Carr, and although their hosts added a final try at the death; Stockwood return home encouraged by their afternoon's work. "They were a good side," said Lovell, "and for most of the second half it was pretty even, in fact, we probably had the better of the packs – things are getting better, we're moving forward."

Luton have suffered back to back defeats in Midlands Two as they were beaten 22-10 on the road at Olney, adding to the

disappointment of their 26-21 home loss to Old Laurentians last weekend.

"It was a tough game against very physical opposition," said Luton's manager Steve Evans. "The boys gave 100 per cent and we were strong for the first 30 minutes but our game plan didn't really come together."

Aiden Kenny crossed over for Luton's first try of the afternoon to make the score 7-5, but couldn't keep their hosts out as Olney went on to kick a penalty and run in a further two tries, converting one, to go 22-5 in front. Tyler Chant scored late on for Luton but the result was, by that time, beyond doubt.

Dunstablians were beaten 34-31 away at Leicester Forest despite leading 31-10 at half time. A Matt Anderson hat-trick and tries from Zacq Bourne and Max Thorne, who converted three, gave the Dees the lead they were unable to hold on to.

"I'm absolutely gutted," said Dees' Scott Warren. "I think we had the game won at half time and just took our foot off the gas, it's so disappointing; we just thought we had the game won."



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# Sport on sunday

## Blues fall to narrow loss against Merthyr

### FOOTBALL

DUNSTABLE Town fell to a 1-0 home defeat against promotion hopefuls Merthyr Town in the Evo Stik Southern League Premier Division.

The visitors were in control from the start and had a number of good chances early on.

The first real chance of the game left Dunstable fans fraught, when goalkeeper Jamie Head fumbled on the line but skipper Adam Pepara reacted quickest to clear.

Soon after, they were opened up by a cross from Keyon Raffell, who found Kayne McLaggan in the danger area.

McLaggan unleashed a fierce strike at goal, which cannoned back off the underside of the crossbar.

The Martyrs took an overdue lead just before the break, with McLaggan turning provider for Ian Traylor, who fired past Blues goalkeeper Head.

The Blues' best chances came from free kicks, with Merthyr composed at the back.

Alex Cathline and Danny Talbot had efforts blocked after the interval but the visitors left with a deserved three points.

In the Evo Stik Southern League Division One Central, Barton Rovers took all three points with a 1-0 win over visiting Arlesey.

The decisive goal came in the 37th minute, when Road Orlando-Young struck.

Elsewhere in the division, AFC Dunstable kept their promotion charge, handing Marlow their first defeat of the season.

Jermaine Hall scored the decisive goal in the 18th minute, assisted by Addiel Mannon.

# Top two delight Town boss



JOB DONE: Nathan Jones was thrilled after both of his attackers struck

### FOOTBALL

BY JAMES CUNLIFFE  
[sport@lsmmedia.co.uk](mailto:sport@lsmmedia.co.uk)

LUTON manager Nathan Jones hailed hitmen Danny Hylton and Isaac Vassell as they both scored to sink Morecambe in a comfortable 2-0 win – the latter with his first ever professional goal.

Town's top marksman, Hylton, curled in his 11th of an already stellar season midway through the first half before Vassell – in only his second League Two start of the campaign – finally got off the mark after 16 previous attempts, with a close range header on the hour.

Jones hailed the former Truro City man for his cameo in last week's 1-0 win over Accrington and, at the Globe Arena, he picked the 23-year-old ahead of Jack Marriott.

"His performance merited something today and I'm glad he's got off the mark because it will give him a little lift, but he was excellent," the Welshman said of Vassell, adding: "He's a bit of a animal up there, as we've said. We've got it; his pace, his power, he leads the line."

"When Jack and Danny play up there together Danny's the focal point, the sole focal point, and

then Jack is the one that gets off the back of people. Now, with both of them [Vassell and Hylton] up there we've got two focal points."

But joy and frustration often come as a couple where Hylton is concerned and he marred a marvellous scoring performance with a needless foul in injury time. Two more cautions before March would result in a two-game ban for the hotshot, who has already served two suspensions this season.

Jones said: "I'm more concerned with Danny Hylton getting booked after having an unbelievable game. It was a magnificent game, he led the line, he was a threat all day and then he goes and does something stupid at the end."

"It's just game management because we're going to be without him for two games soon and that's the thing that's the killer. He's important to us. He's the best centre forward in this league and to be without him is a real pain."

Luton's second straight victory extended a nine-game unbeaten streak and saw them leapfrog Tuesday's opponents Portsmouth into fourth place.

"I've have liked to have won it a bit more comfortably but I felt we were just really professional, really complete. It was excellent," said Jones, adding: "We've gained ground today, which is excellent."

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# Happy travelling for Town

## FOOTBALL

BY JAMES CUNLIFFE  
sport@lsmmedia.co.uk

**MORECAMBE**  
**LUTON TOWN**

**0**  
**2**

**HOW'S this for a philosophical question – if Danny Hylton scores his 11th of the season at Morecambe and there are hardly any Hatters fans there to see it, did it really happen?**

The answer, thankfully, was yes. A total of 502 beleaguered travellers eventually also bore witness to Isaac Vassell's first ever professional goal as their side made it two wins on the spin and extended their unbeaten run to nine games in League Two.

But, for much of the opening 45 minutes, scores of Luton fans were left stuck on the M6 motorway thanks to traffic chaos. With 400 away tickets sold in advance and the final total of Town supporters accounting for a third of the 1,507 Globe Arena gate, car-bound fans pleaded on social media for a delayed start to allow for their passage to the Shrimps' stadium.

While those requests fell on deaf ears – or silent Twitter timelines, at least – boss Nathan Jones extended those that missed out an invitation.

"One day we'll get them in, set up in the Eric Morecambe Lounge and we'll watch the first half together. I'll do it one day this week so if they want to join me, bring them in," said the manager afterwards.

"We have the best fans in the league. They follow the team, they support the team, they're now patient, we've got them all onside and it's a real together club. It's a forward-moving



**HIM AGAIN:** Luton's top scorer Danny Hylton celebrates Luton's opening goal at Morecambe

club. Brilliant. We love them. What I said when I first came here was that we're going to put a side out there that they can be proud of. Well, they've got that.

"Now, can we achieve something?"

Results elsewhere saw the Hatters leapfrog back into fourth place at the expense Tuesday's opponents Portsmouth, while the Welshman's three changes all paid off.

Vassell's performance and long-awaited first Town goal made the most of being preferred to the out-of-sorts Jack Marriott for only his second league start of the season. A penetrative

Pelly-Ruddock Mpanzu returned from his one-match suspension to replace Jordan Cook who began his own ban, while Johnny Mullins came in for sickly skipper Scott Cuthbert and marshalled a third straight clean sheet in the division.

For those still en route, first half eye-witness accounts told of Town dominance in the opening 20 minutes, and manager Jones called it a "complete performance".

That often demands a complete player or two and Hylton has previously been hailed by Jones as the best striker in the league. He was,

once again, Luton's go-to man, breaking the deadlock on 26 minutes with a low curler into the bottom corner for his sixth goal in his last seven outings.

A one-goal advantage at the interval flattered the hosts, but when Luton emerged for the second half it was to the welcome sight off a fuller contingent of their travelling faithful. As it turned out, they were short-changed of time, but for quality control they got double-bubble – and they soon had their rewards for a night-mare journey.

James Justin's shot was too hot too handle for Shrimps' shot-stopper Barry Roche who could only paw onto the crossbar with the bounce falling kindly to Vassell. The striker was waiting for the easiest of point-blank headers to open his account in an unguarded net.

Town threatened to run riot with Hylton involved in three chances but though they couldn't squeeze in a third they were in cruise control, their task was made even easier with five minutes to go when Alex Whitmore lunged dangerously at Jonathan Smith and then Olly Lee within seconds of each other. Referee Ben Toner had no option but to send him off.

There was still four minutes of injury time for Hylton to pick up a needless fourth caution in five games, which moved him ever closer to an almost inevitable two-game ban.

That fact left boss Jones remonstrating with the striker after the final whistle as the team applauded their fans, for whom it was a short afternoon, but oh so sweet.

**Luton:** Walton, Mullins, McGeehan, Hylton, Gilliead (Gray, 85), Rea, Mpanzu (Smith, 83), Lee, Vassell (Marriott, 80), Justin, Sheehan Unused subs: King, O'Donnell, Mackail-Smith, McQuoid

■ See inside for more.

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